

COUNTY BOROUGH OF READING

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1961

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HEALTH COMMITTEE

December 31st, 1961

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Alderman J. S. Woodrow, O.B.E.)

Aldermen:

ALICE JEANETTE BURROWS (Chairman)
EDITH MORRIS

GEORGE GRIMSHAW HAMMOND
(Vice-Chairman)

Councillors:

WILLIAM JOHN ALLUM
HERBERT WILLIAMS
HENRY GEORGE WHEELER
JAMES CYRIL HARRY BUTCHER
CHARLES FREDERICK SAGE
CHARLES ERIC HEMBROW
ARTHUR ALFRED TEASDALE HUTCHINGS

KENNETH MAUND
JOHN EDGAR STILL
IVY SILVIA BLAGROVE
GEORGE FRANK ROBINSON
JIM TOWNSEND
WILLIAM EWART BOWYER

Non-Members of the Council:

J. H. FAIRLEY, M.B., B.CH.
INNES HAROLD PATTISON, M.B., B.S.

CYRIL FRANCIS WRIGHT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

STAFF AT DECEMBER 31st, 1961

Medical Officer of Health:

E. HUGHES, M.D., D.P.H., D.P.A.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

P. K. SYLVESTER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.B., B.S., D(OBST.)R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

Senior Assistant Medical Officer of Health and Senior School Medical Officer:

HARRY IAN LOCKETT, M.B., B.S., D(OBST.)R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officers of Health and School Medical Officers:

VIOLET FRASER, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

ETHEL A. FISHER, M.SC., M.B., B.CH., B.A.O., D(OBST.)R.C.O.G.

ALBERT MARTIN, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

IAN FRASER RALPH, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.—left 30.9.61

GEORGE BERNARD GASSON, M.A., M.B., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., D(OBST.)R.C.O.G.—commenced 1.7.61

Medical Officers (Part-time) Maternity and Child Welfare:

A. J. H. HARDY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M(OBST.)R.C.O.G.

P. W. F. McILVENNA, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S.

Public Analysts:

T. McLACHLAN, A.C.G.F.C., F.I.C.

F. A. LYNE, B.SC., F.R.I.C.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

J. GREEN, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

H. SYRAD, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Public Health Inspectors:

Senior Inspectors:

R. W. BASHFORD (Sampling)

D. V. C. COOPER (Meat)

A. D. E. HARDING (Housing)

E. CARSON (Smoke Abatement)

M. CARTER (Meat)

J. HANDBY (Meat)

District Public Health Inspectors:

H. MORTIMORE

R. C. GOSLING

R. KAYE

P. N. WATKIN—commenced 17.7.61

B. C. MORGAN—commenced 31.7.61

Superintendent Health Visitor:

MISS M. WEBBER, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.

Group Advisors:

*MISS J. N. MARSH

*MISS E. P. E. FEW—commenced 1.7.61

Health Visitors:

*MISS H. A. MORTIMER

*MISS M. J. M. WILLIAMSON

*MISS J. SMITH

*MISS S. G. HANSFORD

*MISS B. H. WHITE

*MISS J. FIELD—commenced 8.8.61

*MRS. K. DULBOROUGH (Part-time)

*MRS. A. ALLISON

*MISS M. E. GRANT

*MISS B. HEATHCOTE

*MISS F. L. GATES

*Combined Health Visitor and School Nurse

Tuberculosis Visitors:

MRS. L. E. MEDWAY

MRS. G. M. RAKE (Part-time)—commenced 5.4.61

Tuberculosis Welfare Officer:

MISS B. I. HARTLEY—left 30.9.61

Non-Medical Supervisor of Midwives:

MISS F. L. MEACHAM, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Domiciliary Midwives:

MISS E. J. ODELL

MISS F. HOLLAND

MISS B. LOYE

MISS E. CHARNELL

MRS. R. M. TEAL

MRS. Y. M. TROTTIER

MISS T. SMITH

MISS V. GARRIGAN

MISS M. HALL

MISS M. FOX

Family Welfare Officers:

MRS. C. A. S. HALL (Part-time)

MISS D. A. MATTHEWS

Mental Welfare Officers:

C. E. HOUSE

MISS J. M. ROBB

MRS. A. J. TREGILLUS

Assistant Mental Welfare Officers:

W. C. LACY

V. A. LANDOR

Chief Clerk:

C. I. AUST

Domestic Help Service:

Supervisor:

MRS. H. A. FINCH

Assistant Supervisors:

MISS M. CHURCHILL

MRS. L. R. RUSSELL
(Part-time)MRS. E. G. DAVIES
(Part-time)**Training Centres:**

Supervisors:

Miss E. M. BARKAS—retired 31.7.61

Mrs. L. FADE

Mr. A. H. ALLEN

Mrs. R. ENGLISH

Superintendent Home Nursing Service:

Miss A. M. EDWARDS, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V., Q.N.

Day Nursery:

Holybrook House: Mrs. M. MORRIS (Matron)

Blind Welfare Officer:

Miss M. L. LOWE

Home Teachers for the Blind:

Miss A. E. SMITH

Mrs. M. E. HODGE

Welfare Officer "Other Classes" of Handicapped Persons:

Mrs. J. D. SNOW

Mrs. F. M. E. HARRISON

Occupational Therapist:

Mrs. D. J. NUGENT

Home Work Organiser:

Mrs. C. BIDDLE (Part-time)

Administrative Assistant for the Purposes of the National Assistance Act, 1948:

D. H. COMERFORD

Old People's Homes:**"Woodlands"**

G. HOGG (Superintendent)

Mrs. H. M. HOGG (Matron)

"Wychcotes" and "Warren House"

Mrs. E. J. ABLETT (Superintendent)

"Parkhurst"

Mrs. F. B. McADAM (Superintendent)

"Southern Hill"

Mrs. A. T. KEEGAN (Superintendent)

"Arthur Clark"

Miss B. F. HAYSMAN (Superintendent)

"Dysons Wood"

Mrs. R. H. DAVIES (Superintendent)

"Alice Jenkins"

Mrs. G. R. MEREDITH (Superintendent)

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S DEPARTMENT,
BRISTOL & WEST HOUSE,
173/4 FRIAR STREET,
READING.

July, 1962

"A Medical Officer of Health shall, in respect of the district for which he is appointed report to the Local Authority on the sanitary circumstances, the sanitary administration, and the vital statistics of the district, containing in addition to any matters upon which he may consider it desirable to report"

(Extract from the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959).

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee:

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1961. Detailed comment on the various aspects of the department's work will be found in the body of the report and in this introduction I wish to deal very briefly with certain matters of special interest or on which the Minister has requested special comment.

On the whole, 1961 was a quiet year. The confusion about the financial position and shortage of staff in many sections of the department made it difficult to maintain services at the high level which I know is desired by the Health Committee. It is unfortunately true that most of the major professions are displaying an active avoidance of local government service at a time when Parliament is placing more duties on the local authorities. In these days of departmental interdependence, we in the Health Department are very sensitive to delays due to shortage of staff in other departments of the Corporation, and this has been especially apparent in the delays which have taken place in the execution of capital works. I feel that we in Reading are, in many ways, at a disadvantage in attracting young professional staff because of the high cost of living and the difficulty of finding living accommodation at a reasonable price.

Of recent months much has been heard about the Ten Year Development Plan of the medical services of this country, and the local authority, of course, has to play its part in this. In many ways it is unfortunate that the greater publicity in the development of these services has been given to the hospital services, with the result that the public and members of the Council have been given the impression that the full execution of the plans for the development of the hospital services depends on the development of certain local authority services. Surely this is a wrong emphasis. Many of us may go through our lives without ever being admitted to a hospital, while the majority of us may only spend three or four weeks in a hospital out of a lifetime of 70 years. The rest of our lives will be spent in our own homes and, surely, it is logical to pay more attention to the services which reach us in our own homes. These are, of course provided by general practitioners and by the Local Health Authority and exist in their own right and not as extensions of the hospital service.

I think I can report truthfully that within the limitations imposed by finance and by shortage of staff, the Health Committee in Reading has shown a genuine

desire to accept the responsibilities which Parliament has placed upon the Council in providing certain services for its citizens. We have had a lot of leeway to make up in our social services in the Borough, but it is very gratifying to acknowledge the keen desire of the Health Committee to accept its responsibility.

Co-operation with hospitals and with general practitioners continues to be excellent. In the main we have depended on good personal relationships rather than on any formal schemes of liaison committees, etc. Thus, there are good arrangements under which health visitors and specialised welfare workers follow up cases of persons discharged from hospital and do their best to ensure that they are receiving adequate attention. No steps have been taken for health visitors to work in conjunction with a particular general medical practitioner or group of practitioners. I know this idea is being propagated in some quarters but the health visitors have shown no interest in the proposition and I feel that such a scheme has many more disadvantages than are admitted by some people.

1961 was the first full year of the operation of the Mental Health Act and comments will be found in the body of the report. The good relations with the local mental hospitals have continued, although I must repeat my warning about a too ready acceptance of community care as being a solution to so many problems. In my opinion, no one has yet made, or even been in a position to make, a reasonable evaluation of the cost of community care either in terms of hard cash or in terms of the mental or physical suffering of other members of the family.

Reference is made in the body of the report to the opening of a small care and attention centre at Tilehurst for severely affected mentally handicapped children. This is only a small venture but a very gratifying one.

The problem of providing adequate care for the aged continues. I hope that at long last a start will be made on the hostel for old people on the Southcote Estate. This hostel will contain a small amount of accommodation for married couples—who are now starting to present a problem in that some of them cannot be supported by the ordinary domiciliary services.

I hope that when this hostel is opened it will be possible to close down the hostel at Dysons Wood which is very difficult to staff and, like so many adapted homes is now proving unsatisfactory. Reference will be found in the report to the development of chiropody services for elderly people, which is provided in part by a voluntary agency and in part by the local authority.

Our work on the environmental side has also demanded considerable attention. Slow but steady progress was made in the matter of slum clearance and also in dealing with houses let-in-lodgings.

It is probably true to say that inadequate housing of certain members of the population presents our single greatest environmental problem. The slum problem is not numerically a great problem in Reading although it is larger than was once thought. We have, however, a large number of houses which lack standard amenities and I think there is no doubt that a great many houses will have to be condemned within the next twenty years or so. Unfortunately the difficulties are being increased by a steady influx of newcomers into the town who are attracted here by the prospect of better employment than in other parts of the country. Even though we impose a four-year waiting period for Corporation houses on such newcomers there is a limit to the number of houses which the Corporation can be expected to provide and I feel that the time may well have come when we shall state categorically that

there is no point in anyone coming to live in the Borough unless they can afford to buy a house or that a house will be provided for them by their employer.

Our efforts to implement the Clean Air Act continue and fuller reference will be found to this important subject in the body of the report.

There are many aspects of the work of the department which cannot be included in this brief introduction. Therefore, I hope that members will find time to read the report in full.

To you, Madam Chairman, and members of the Committee, I tender my thanks for your very constant support during the year; and last, but by no means least, to all members of my staff for the cheerful way in which they have undertaken the many additional burdens which have been placed upon them as a result of new duties or shortage of staff.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

E. HUGHES,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

	1961	1960
Area (acres)	9,106	9,106
Population (estimated June 1961)	121,040	118,110
Area Comparability Factor:—		
Births	1.01	1.01
Deaths	0.94	0.95
Number of inhabited houses according to rate book at at 31.3.62	38,845	35,258
Rateable Value	£2,197,887	£2,168,643
Product of a Penny Rate (31.3.62)	£9,035	£8,542
Total cost of Services administered by the Health Com- mittee and the Welfare Services Sub-Committee of the Education Committee (Medical Services only) for the year ended March 31st, 1962:—		
Expenditure less income (other than Govern- ment Grants)	£390,821	£348,115

*Live Births	Total	Males	Females	Birth Rate per 1,000 pop. (not adjusted)
Total . . .	2190 (2064)	1132 (1095)	1058 (969)	18.09 (17.48)
Legitimate . . .	2020 (1926)	1039 (1034)	981 (892)	16.69 (16.31)
Illegitimate . . .	170 (138)	93 (61)	77 (77)	1.40 (1.17)
*Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births . . .				7.76 (6.69)
*Stillbirths . . .				34 (36)
Number of domiciliary stillbirths . . .				3 (6)
*Stillbirths rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths (<i>not adjusted</i>):—				15.29 (17.14)
*Total live and stillbirths . . .				2,224 (2,100)
*Infant deaths (deaths under 1 year):—				
Total . . .				40 (42)
Legitimate . . .				37 (38)
Illegitimate . . .				3 (4)
*Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births (<i>not adjusted</i>):—				
Total . . .				18.26 (20.35)
Legitimate . . .				18.32 (19.73)
Illegitimate . . .				17.65 (28.99)
*Deaths of infants under four weeks . . .				25 (29)
*Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births) . . .				11.42 (14.05)
*Deaths of infants under one week . . .				23 (26)
*Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births) . . .				10.50 (12.60)

*Peri-natal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	25.63	(29.52)
*Maternal Mortality (including abortion)		
Number of deaths	—	(1)
From sepsis	—	(—)
From other causes	—	(1)
*Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths	—	(0.48)
*Deaths—Net	1393	(1,306)
*Death Rate per 1,000 population (<i>not adjusted</i>)	11.51	(11.06)
*Deaths from Cancer	268	(269)
Heart disease, all forms (other than coronary disease) and diseases of the circulatory system	284	(284)
Coronary heart disease	241	(231)
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	191	(207)
*Tuberculosis deaths:—		
All forms	4	(7)
Pulmonary	4	(7)
Non-Pulmonary	—	(—)
*Tuberculosis death rate per 1,000 population:—		
All forms	0.03	(0.06)
Pulmonary	0.03	(0.06)
Non-Pulmonary	—	(—)
Number of marriages	1,094	(1,088)

* Registrar-General's Returns
All figures in brackets refer to (1960)

Comparison of Vital Statistics for Reading with those for other Areas

	Reading (adjusted by Area Comparability Factor)	England and Wales
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population:—		
Births:—		
Live births	18.27	17.40
Stillbirths per 1,000 total births	15.44	18.70
Deaths:—		
All causes	10.82	12.00
Rates per 1,000 Live Births:—		
Deaths:—		
All causes under 1 year of age	17.16	21.40

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT, 1961

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MONTH	Rainfall and Temperature as Recorded at Forbury Gardens						Sunshine Hours as Recorded at Reading University		
	Rainfall in inches	Temperature				*Mean Humidity	Monthly Aggregate of Sunshine Hours	Daily Mean Sunshine Hours	Daily Mean expressed as a percentage of Possible Sunshine
		Maximum	Minimum	Mean Maximum	Mean Minimum				
January ...	2.68	53	26	44.32	32.71	93.61	56.0	1.81	21
February ...	2.38	64	34	51.18	38.92	95.53	59.1	2.11	21
March ...	.18	73	26	58.22	35.81	95.90	167.3	5.39	46
April ...	3.26	68	37	61.27	42.50	93.53	84.9	2.83	21
May ...	.90	78	32	64.74	42.61	94.54	227.1	7.33	47
June ...	1.41	84	41	71.97	48.33	95.17	232.6	7.75	47
July ...	1.82	89	42	73.35	51.81	94.81	193.5	6.24	39
August ...	2.26	92	44	71.97	52.10	88.39	170.3	5.49	38
September ...	3.16	87	40	71.67	50.13	90.87	132.5	4.42	35
October ...	2.72	71	29	61.29	43.64	90.61	123.9	4.00	37
November ...	1.90	62	25	50.26	35.40	88.40	54.4	1.81	20
December ...	3.29	58	15	43.74	29.74	91.90	72.5	2.34	29
Year ...	25.96						1574.1	4.31	35

* As recorded at 9 a.m.

ANALYSIS OF DEATHS ACCORDING TO RESIDENCE, ETC.

[illegible]

Employment

I am indebted to the Manager of the Employment Exchange for the following information:—

The number of insured employees in the Reading area was estimated to be 67,000 in June, 1961, the latest date for which statistics are available. The numbers employed in the main industries are:—

	<i>Men</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Total</i>
Agriculture and Horticulture	1,267	106	329	21	1,723
Food, Drink and Tobacco	2,409	114	1,676	220	4,419
Building and Civil Engineering	5,415	357	368	31	6,171
Clothing Manufacture	176	15	504	150	845
Distributive trades	5,020	566	4,374	995	10,955
Engineering (including aircraft and metal goods manufacture, vehicle manufacture and repair)	6,259	281	1,283	85	7,908
Timber, Furniture & shop fittings	1,003	45	255	16	1,319
Government Service (National and Local)	2,459	29	1,152	28	3,668
Hotel Catering	385—males		1,069—females		1,454
Plastic Manufacture	409	25	338	54	826
Printing and Publishing	1,276	90	549	203	2,118
Transport (road and rail) and Communication	3,988	124	610	48	4,770

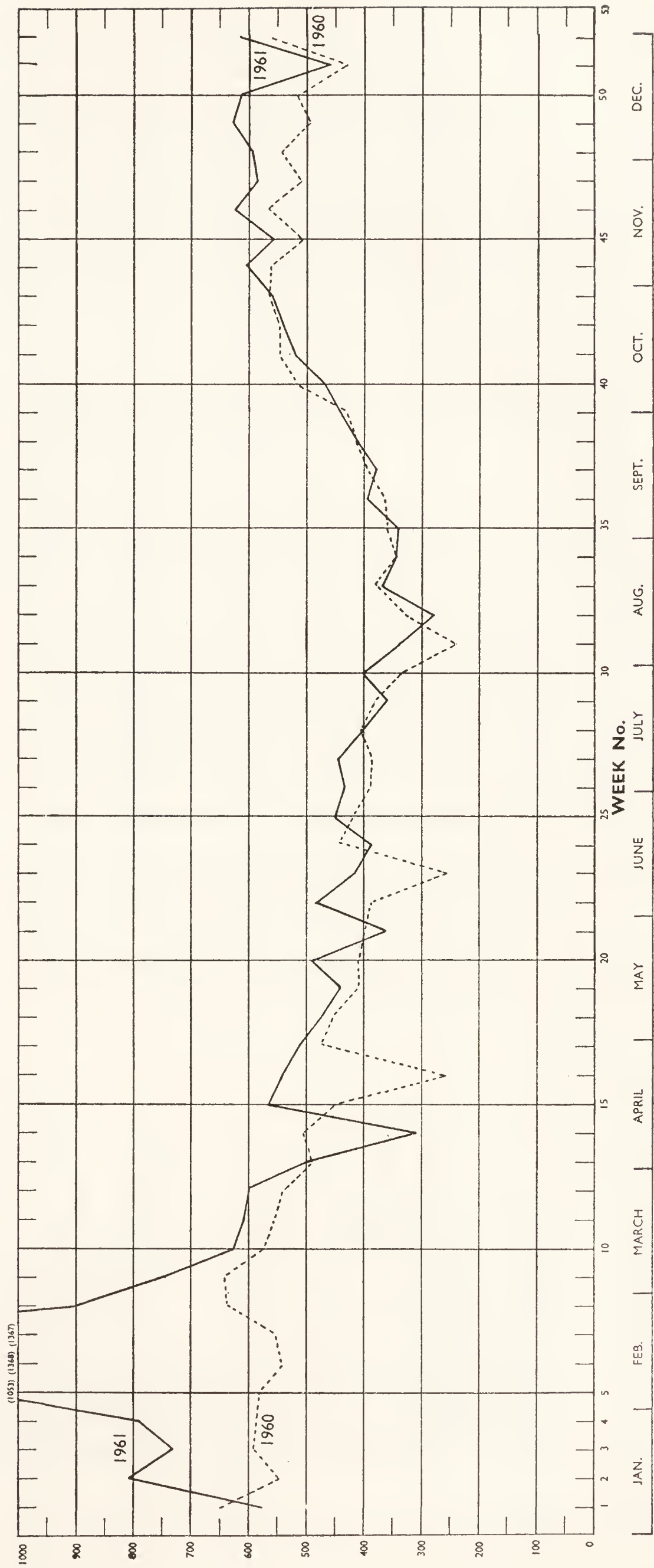
In 1961 the employment situation remained basically good although there was a substantial reduction in the number of vacancies outstanding and a steady rise in unemployment. Demands for skilled workers remained fairly heavy in most industries but opportunities for unskilled people, particularly those in the older age groups, became less numerous.

The percentage of the estimated total of insured employees in the area who registered as unemployed was about 1% in December, 1961, compared with the national rate of 1.7%.

The number of persons registered as unemployed at quarterly intervals during 1961 were as follows:—

1961	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Totals</i>
March . . .	314	14	120	4	452
June . . .	259	6	107	3	375
September . . .	299	18	111	10	438
December . . .	434	9	165	4	612

NUMBER OF NEW CLAIMS FOR SICKNESS BENEFIT PER WEEK 1961



CAUSES AND AGES AT DEATH. (Registrar-General's Return)

CAUSES OF DEATH	All ages	All ages		Under 1		1-4		5-14		15-24		25-44		45-64		65-74		75 and Over	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1—Tuberculosis (respiratory) ..	4	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—
2—Tuberculosis (other) ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3—Syphilitic disease ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
4—Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—Whooping Cough ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6—Meningococcal Infections ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7—Acute Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8—Measles ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9—Other infective and parasitic diseases ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—Malignant neoplasm, Stomach ..	28	11	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	5	3	3	9	—
11—" " Lung, bronchus ..	49	41	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	25	5	12	2	3	1
12—" " Breast ..	30	—	30	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	11	—	7	—
13—" " Uterus ..	13	—	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	4	—	2	—
14—Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ..	148	70	78	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	22	24	23	19	22	32
15—Leukaemia, aleukaemia ..	8	5	3	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	2	—	—
16—Diabetes ..	11	4	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	2	1	3
17—Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	191	63	128	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	11	14	33	36	83
18—Coronary disease, angina ..	241	143	98	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	54	12	45	37	43	49
19—Hypertension with heart disease ..	30	15	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	5	3	7	11
20—Other heart disease ..	177	77	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	10	8	20	18	45	73
21—Other circulatory disease ..	77	29	48	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	4	8	8	13	36
22—Influenza ..	8	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
23—Pneumonia ..	97	38	59	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	6	8	8	9	1	3
24—Bronchitis ..	82	60	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	1	21	7	19	40
25—Other diseases of respiratory system ..	10	7	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	22	14
26—Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	8	5	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	—	4	1
27—Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ..	4	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
28—Nephritis and nephrosis ..	7	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	1	—	1	—
29—Hyperplasia of prostate ..	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
30—Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
31—Congenital malformations ..	13	10	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
32—Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	98	46	52	7	2	—	—	3	1	—	—	2	3	6	7	7	8	17	23
33—Motor vehicle accidents ..	13	7	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	2	3	1	—	1	—
34—All other accidents ..	23	11	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	7
35—Suicide ..	16	10	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	4	5	1	1	—
36—Homicide and operation of war ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS..	1393	672	721	24	16	3	2	6	5	5	2	15	15	182	111	187	171	250	399
		1393		40		5		11		7		30		293		358		649	

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946

SECTION 21—PROVISION OF HEALTH CENTRES

No steps have been taken to provide health centres in accordance with Section 21 of the Act. During the year the Infant Welfare Clinic at Weald Rise had to be closed because it was unsatisfactory. There have been several tiresome delays in getting this replaced and at the moment of writing (April, 1962), no work has been started to replace it. Members will recall that this Clinic should have been completed in the financial year 1961/62.

SECTION 22—CARE OF EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS, AND CHILDREN UNDER SCHOOL AGE

(a) "Risk" Register

In previous reports we have described the register now being kept in the borough of babies considered to be potentially "at risk" of having defective hearing. We indicated that the information needed to compile this register was obtained mainly from the Midwifery Discharge Reports submitted to the Medical Officer of Health by hospital, nursing home, and domiciliary midwives. When a child has been placed on the register arrangements are made for an early examination of its hearing, and follow-up tests where necessary, at the special Research Audiological Unit which has been set up at the Royal Berkshire Hospital under the aegis of the Nuffield Trust and we are most indebted to Dr. K. P. Murphy, Ph.D. for his continued generous co-operation in this work.

An analysis of the risk register for the year 1961 is as follows:—

Total Reading live births, 1961	2,117
Number of children placed on Risk Register during 1961	531
i.e. the Register included 25% of all live births.	

Monthly analysis

January	50
February	42
March	37
April	44
May	44
June	39
July	46
August	48
September	49
October	40
November	41
December	51
Total	531

Analysis by cause

(This list is not exhaustive but includes some of the more interesting and important categories. It will be noted that the total number of cases given in the first column exceeds the total number of children placed on the register during the year. This is because a number of children fall into more than one category of risk).

	<i>No. of cases</i>	<i>Percentage of Risk Register</i>
Family history of deafness	60	11%
Virus infection in pregnancy	11	2%
Toxaemia of pregnancy	66	12%
Haemorrhage during pregnancy	38	7%
Exchange transfusion	11	2%
Prematurity (under 5½ lb.)	117	22%
Postmaturity	8	1.5%
Multiple birth	44	8%
Malpresentation	34	6%
Forceps delivery	89	17%
Caesarean section	40	8%
Anoxia at birth	49	9%
Jaundice (marked or prolonged)	25	5%
Congenital malformation	4	1%

Summary

The chief referral categories in the Risk Register are seen to be as follows:—

1. Prematurity 22%
2. Forceps delivery 17%
3. Pregnancy toxaemia 12%
4. Family history of deafness 11%

It was noted in last year's Report that, under the existing arrangements, we did not seem to be collecting much information about certain groups such as virus infection during pregnancy or family history of deafness. The 1961 figures indicate an appreciable improvement in this respect.

As regards the return in terms of deaf children detected through the screening of children "at risk", the results obtained so far raise doubts about the value of this procedure. During the three years (1959-1961) a total of 1,420 children have been placed on this Register and referred for specialist investigation of hearing. Only one of these, a child of deaf and dumb parents, who also suffered from a degree of anoxia at birth, has so far been shown to be deaf.

(b) Phenylketonuria

The arrangements outlined in my last Report were continued. During the year 1,829 babies were tested for phenylketonuria but no positive results were recorded.

(c) Register of Handicapped and Pre-school Children

This register was continued during the year and the following table gives an analysis of the defects which were entered thereon:—

Congenital heart disease	23
Mongolism	14
Mental retardation	9
Epilepsy	9
Cerebral palsy	13
Psychosis and behaviour disorders	5
Visual defects (severe)	9
Perceptive deafness	5
Congenital dislocation of hip	4
Other congenital defects	16
Other acquired defects	5
	<hr/> 112 <hr/>

The total number of pre-school children on the register was, therefore, 112 which represented 1.11 of children of this age living within the borough.

(d) Infantile Mortality, Stillbirths and Peri-natal Mortality Rate

The following table gives the figures since 1948:—

	I.M.R.	S.B.R.	P.N.R.
1948	34.60	24.76	41.90
1949	26.20	21.42	36.57
1950	26.10	22.75	38.84
1951	28.95	20.19	34.91
1952	23.19	26.52	34.98
1953	19.70	22.75	32.67
1954	29.20	17.28	33.39
1955	23.60	23.00	37.48
1956	18.13	18.00	30.01
1957	20.90	25.20	38.07
1958	21.78	19.86	34.26
1959	19.18	20.28	31.16
1960	20.35	17.14	29.52
1961	18.26	15.29	25.63

The table on page 40 gives the cause of deaths of infants during the first year of life.

(e) Ante-natal Clinic

Most of the medical ante-natal attention given to expectant mothers is given by general practitioners in their own surgeries, but the use of our clinics by domiciliary midwives continues successfully and is well appreciated. Medical sessions now appear

to be confined to the extremely useful one of taking samples of blood at the request of general practitioners for examination at the Pathological Laboratory.

The midwives' sessions continued to be held during the following times:—

Star Lane	Monday afternoons Friday afternoons Saturday afternoons, ante-natal exercises
Southcote	Tuesday afternoons
Whitley	Monday afternoons (with Doctor) Tuesday afternoons
Tilehurst	Wednesday afternoons Friday afternoons Saturday afternoons, ante-natal exercises
Emmer Green	Monday afternoons

The following table gives particulars of attendances throughout the year at medical sessions at Whitley and Star Lane Municipal Ante-Natal Clinics:—

Clinic	Number of Sessions held	Ante-natal		Post-natal
		New Patients	Re-attendances	
Star Lane ...	52	—	6	Nil
Whitley ...	48	79	467	36
Total ...	100	79	473	36

The attendances at Midwives' sessions were as follows:—

	No. of Sessions	New Patients	Re-attendances
Star Lane	99	394	2,018
Whitley	51	129	420
Southcote	51	89	543
Tilehurst	103	343	1,476
Emmer Green	48	121	478
Total	352	976	4,935

Arrangements continue for the issue of maternity outfits of an approved pattern for all mothers who are to be confined at home.

Blood Tests

Our practice of performing venepuncture for the purpose of carrying out blood tests for Rhesus factor and Kahn tests for general practitioners has continued.

The following table gives particulars:—

Clinic patients at Star Lane	Nil
General Practitioner patients at Star Lane	1,043
Clinic patients at Whitley	125
General Practitioner patients at Whitley	105

Post-Natal Clinics

There are no special sessions for post-natal examinations and the work is carried out in conjunction with the ante-natal sessions, as would be expected by virtue of the fact that nearly all the ante-natal work is carried out by the patient's own doctor, few women attend municipal clinics for their post-natal examinations. During the year 36 women attended municipal clinics for post-natal examinations.

Care of Unmarried Mothers and Children

This work continues to be carried out in collaboration with the Reading & Bradfield Association for Moral Welfare and with other agencies. If necessary, cases can be dealt with by the department's own staff. We have also collaborated closely with the Children's Officer, more especially when there was any question of adoption or fostering of the child when the mother was ready to resume work. The Welfare Officer of the Reading & Bradfield Moral Welfare Association has been good enough to supply the following information:—

There were rather fewer cases in 1961 than in 1960; altogether there are 128 current cases from the County Borough of Reading involving illegitimate children and their parents.

541 interviews took place at 89b, Broad Street, and 430 visits were paid to girls.

44 girls from Reading Borough went to Mother and Baby Homes and they were helped by their stay in the Home.

The Church of England Children's Society and Dr. Barnardo's Homes have continued to make grants to several children, and their help is very much appreciated.

One girl found romance through a pen friend and towards the end of November, 1961, set off for America with her young daughter. She was married to her pen friend shortly after her arrival, and several happy and enthusiastic letters have been received from her.

Once again I am greatly indebted for the help and co-operation received from the Public Health Department.

<i>Annual Record of Cases for 1961</i>	<i>New</i>	<i>Old</i>	<i>Total</i>
(A) Involving illegitimate children and their parents	86	42	128

<i>*Ages of Mothers on referral</i>						<i>*Domicile of Mothers</i>			
14 years and under	.	.	.	.	1	Home in area	.	.	71
15 ,, ,, ,,	.	.	.	.	1	Home elsewhere	.	.	19
16 ,, ,, ,,	.	.	.	.	4				
17 ,, ,, ,,	.	.	.	.	12				
18 ,, ,, ,,	.	.	.	.	10				
19 ,, ,, ,,	.	.	.	.	10				
20-29 ,, ,, ,,	.	.	.	.	43				
30-40 ,, ,, ,,	.	.	.	.	4				
41 and over	.	.	.	.	1				
					<hr/>				
					86				

<i>*Marital Status (Mothers)</i>					<i>*Nationality (Mothers)</i>				
Single	.	.	.	74	English	.	.	.	74
Married	.	.	.	12	Irish (Eire)	.	.	.	2
Divorced	.	.	.	—	West Indian	.	.	.	8
Widowed	.	.	.	—	German	.	.	.	2

*Marital Status (Putative Fathers)					*Nationality (P.F.)				
Single	.	.	.	65	English	.	.	.	61
Married	.	.	.	18	Irish (Eire)	.	.	.	6
Divorced	.	.	.	3	West Indian	.	.	.	14
Widowed	.	.	.	—	American	.	.	.	2
					Austrian	.	.	.	1
					Belgian	.	.	.	1
					Cypriot	.	.	.	1

†Position of Children at end of 1961	New	Old	Total
Living with mother in her home or lodgings	27	10	37
Living with mother married to P.F.	5	5	10
Living with mother married to another man	—	1	1
Living with mother in residential post	2	3	5
Living with parents who are co-habiting	3	—	3
Living with foster parents	1	—	1
Living in voluntary children's Home	1	1	2
Placed for adoption	10	18	28
Mother removed before birth of child	3	1	4
Case referred to another agency	1	—	1
Babies died	2	1	3
Miscarriages and abortions	1	—	1

Cases still in hand

In care of L.A. with or without mother	4	2	6
In voluntary home or hostel with mother	7	—	7
Babies not yet born	19	—	19
	—	—	—
TOTAL	86	42	128
	—	—	—

*New cases only
†New and Old cases, on which any work has been done during the year.

SUMMARY OF INFANT AND MATERNAL MORTALITY RATES SINCE 1911

Year	Population	No. of Births	Birth-rate per 1,000 Living	No. of Infant Deaths	Infant Mortality	Maternal Mortality			Total No. of Deaths	Death-rate per 1,000 Living
						Sepsis	Others	Rate per 1,000 Births		
1911	87,693	1,605	21.32	164	102.2	5	3	4.9	911	12.10
1912	88,603	1,896	21.40	160	84.4	3	3	3.2	1,015	11.45
1913	89,339	1,871	20.94	150	80.2	4	4	4.3	1,035	11.58
1914	90,083	1,819	20.19	161	88.5	1	6	3.9	1,082	12.01
1915	86,299	1,792	19.89	147	82.0	3	3	3.4	1,199	13.89
1916	92,563	1,794	19.38	145	80.8	4	—	2.2	1,230	14.46
1917	91,936	1,420	15.44	140	98.6	3	4	4.9	1,172	14.21
1918	92,320	1,582	17.14	115	72.7	3	4	4.4	1,317	15.98
1919	95,175	1,593	16.7	109	68.4	1	3	2.5	1,091	11.9
1920	95,387	2,278	24.8	152	66.7	4	7	3.9	1,016	11.04
1921	92,274	1,892	20.4	114	60.2	—	1	0.5	1,069	10.7
1922	92,990	1,729	18.5	109	63.04	—	2	1.16	1,135	12.2
1923	93,160	1,705	18.3	88	51.6	3	8	6.4	1,036	11.12
1924	93,680	1,603	17.1	86	53.6	—	5	3.1	1,006	10.7
1925	93,910	1,509	16.07	85	56.3	2	5	4.6	1,042	11.12
1926	93,290	1,624	17.6	83	50.5	4	1	3.0	1,139	12.2
1927	94,890	1,456	15.3	62	42.5	1	2	2.0	1,165	12.3
1928	97,190	1,489	15.48	80	53.6	4	6	6.7	1,147	11.9
1929	97,050	1,446	14.9	75	50.5	1	3	2.8	1,373	14.1
1930	97,050	1,404	14.4	77	54.8	—	3	2.1	1,114	11.4
1931	97,149	1,477	15.1	66	44.6	1	3	2.7	1,169	12.0
1932	97,636	1,396	14.3	77	55.2	1	5	4.29	1,253	12.8
1933	98,950	1,380	13.9	87	63.0	1	4	2.9	1,370	13.6
1934	99,250	1,414	14.25	58	41.02	3	1	2.8	1,183	11.9
1935	99,600	1,475	14.8	76	51.5	2	1	1.9	1,230	12.3
1936	100,000	1,436	14.3	73	51.0	1	2	2.1	1,275	12.8
1937	100,200	1,581	15.8	79	49.7	—	3	1.8	1,306	13.0
1938	100,400	1,582	15.7	60	39.9	1	6	4.4	1,259	12.5
1939	100,600	1,564	15.5	79	50.5	1	5	3.9	1,327	13.2
1940	114,600	1,725	15.0	88	51.0	—	1	0.5	1,606	14.1
1941	124,800	1,913	15.3	113	59.0	2	5	3.7	1,532	12.2
1942	117,800	1,833	15.0	70	38.2	1	1	1.1	1,298	11.0
1943	113,000	1,925	17.03	83	43.1	1	4	2.6	1,385	12.2
1944	111,340	2,139	19.2	87	40.7	—	4	1.8	1,311	12.0
1945	108,830	2,066	18.8	98	47.4	1	3	1.9	1,400	12.8
1946	111,340	2,226	20.0	98	44.0	—	2	0.89	1,382	12.4
1947	112,960	2,533	22.4	89	35.1	—	2	0.77	1,395	12.3
1948	114,500	2,100	17.88	71	34.6	2	2	1.9	1,311	11.45
1949	115,500	1,873	16.26	47	26.2	—	1	0.52	1,260	10.93
1950	115,770	1,761	15.21	46	26.1	—	—	—	1,344	11.61
1951	115,100	1,833	15.93	52	28.95	—	1	0.55	1,402	12.18
1952	115,800	1,772	15.30	40	23.19	—	—	—	1,285	11.09
1953	117,700	1,714	14.56	33	19.70	—	3	1.75	1,255	10.66
1954	118,300	1,678	14.18	49	29.20	—	1	0.58	1,246	10.53
1955	118,100	1,695	14.35	40	23.60	—	—	—	1,358	11.5
1956	117,900	1,765	14.97	32	18.13	—	—	—	1,348	11.43
1957	118,100	1,818	15.39	38	20.90	—	1	0.54	1,273	10.78
1958	117,900	1,974	16.74	43	21.78	—	—	—	1,255	10.64
1959	118,200	1,981	16.76	38	19.18	—	—	—	1,400	11.84
1960	118,110	2,064	17.48	42	20.35	—	1	0.48	1,306	11.06
1961	121,040	2,190	18.09	40	18.26	—	—	—	1,393	11.51

INFANT WELFARE CLINICS

It is estimated that 89% of the children born during the year attended one or the other of these clinics during 1961.

The following table gives particulars:—

Centre	No. of Sessions	New attendances under 1 year	Total Attendances			Total attendances	Average attendances
			Under 1 year	1 & under 2	2 & under 5		
St. Mary Magdalen, Oxford Road, Reading— Monday p.m. ... (Closed, Feb., 1961)	8	13	203	35	21	259	32
Elm Park Hall, Oxford Road, Reading— Tuesday a.m. ... Tuesday p.m. ... Thursday p.m. ...	51 51 52	49 107 98	1,204 1,675 1,612	321 358 337	187 223 184	1,712 2,256 2,133	34 44 41
Tilehurst Clinic. "The Laurels," School Road— Monday p.m. ... Thursday p.m. ...	48 52	105 157	1,700 2,408	421 422	269 434	2,390 3,264	50 63
Star Lane, London Street, Rdg.— Tuesday p.m. ... Wednesday a.m. ... Wednesday p.m. ...	51 32 51	182 27 181	2,817 304 2,164	459 61 473	226 67 295	3,502 432 2,932	69 13 57
Whitley Clinic, Northumberland Avenue— Wednesday p.m. ... Friday p.m. ...	51 51	118 103	1,569 1,336	330 175	128 100	2,027 1,611	40 32
Tynedale Free Church Hall, Shinfield— Thursday p.m. ...	52	118	1,707	412	198	2,317	45
West Memorial Institute, Caversham— Tuesday p.m. ... Thursday p.m. ...	51 52	92 117	1,461 1,445	374 317	248 173	2,083 1,935	41 37
Park Institute, Wokingham Road, Reading— Monday p.m. ... Friday p.m. ...	48 51	124 137	1,764 2,093	354 410	186 230	2,304 2,733	48 54
Emmer Green Clinic, Grove Road Wednesday p.m. ...	51	66	998	293	263	1,554	30
Southcote Clinic, Coronation Square— Wednesday p.m. ... Friday p.m. ...	51 51	83 85	1,454 1,396	302 367	212 270	1,968 2,033	39 40
Totals ...	905	1,962	29,310	6,221	3,914	39,445	

NUMBER OF ATTENDANCES AT INFANT WELFARE CLINICS, 1961

Centres provided by	Number of centres provided at end of year	Number of child welfare sessions now held per month at centres in col. 2	Number of children who first attended a centre of this Local Health Authority during the year and who at their first attend- ance were under 1 year of age (4)	Number of children who attended during the year and who were born in :			Total number of children who attended during the year	Number of attendances during the year made by children who at the date of attendance were :			Total attendances during the year
				1961	1960	1959-56		Under 1 year	1 but under 2	2 but under 5	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
L.H.A.	9	75	1,962	1,834	1,671	1,387	4,892	29,310	6,221	3,914	39,445

Welfare Foods

The arrangements for the distribution of welfare foods continued satisfactorily throughout the year. Towards the end of the year we received notification that we would have to vacate our premises at No. 22, The Forbury, but we have been fortunate in obtaining alternative premises at No. 1, London Street, which were occupied on 5th February, 1962. Unfortunately, these premises are also temporary.

The following table gives details of the foods distributed:—

National Dried Milk Half-Cream (20 oz. tins)	142
National Dried Milk Full Cream (20 oz. tins)	7,970
Orange Juice (bottles)	22,497
Cod Liver Oil Compound (bottles)	1,965
Vitamin Capsules (packets)	3,856

The following figures relate to the main items distributed from the clinics during the year and are in addition to the preceding:—

National Dried Milk Half-Cream (20 oz. tins)	46
Proprietary brands of Dried Milk Full Cream (16 oz. packets)	26,064
Ministry of Food Orange Juice (bottles)	27,923
Proprietary brands of Fruit Juice (bottles)	10,080
Ministry of Food Cod Liver Oil Compound (bottles)	2,893
Ministry of Food Vitamin Capsules (packets)	2,624
Proprietary brands of Vitamin Preparations (8 c.c. bottles)	5,400

As from 1st June, 1961, the price of Orange Juice was increased from 5d. to 1/6d. per bottle. Cod Liver Oil Compound and Vitamin Tablets which were free were then sold at 1/- and 6d. respectively.

These products were at the same time freed from the use of coupons.

Women's Advisory Clinic

Arrangements continued as previously, viz: the clinic is administered by a voluntary body which has free use of Corporation clinic premises. The following figures refer to the work done:—

During the year 1961, 2,721 patients attended the Clinic. Of this number 1,755 were seen by one of our Doctors. 563 were new patients i.e. attending the Clinic for the first time. Of this number 136 were sent by their own Family Doctors; 12 were directed from the Hospitals; 48 by Midwives or Health Visitors; 8 by the Marriage Guidance Council; 156 by friends who are already patients; and the rest from various other sources, i.e. Clergy; Central Office F.P.A.; The Press; Radio; etc.

Weight at birth (1)	PREMATURE LIVE BIRTHS												PREMATURE STILLBIRTHS		
	Born in Hospital *			Born at home and nursed entirely at home			Born at home and transferred to hospital on or before 28th day			Born in nursing home and nursed entirely there			Born in nursing home and transferred to hospital on or before 28th day		
	Total (2)	Died within 24 hrs. of birth (3)	Survived 28 days (4)	Total (5)	Died within 24 hrs. of birth (6)	Survived 28 days (7)	Total (8)	Died within 24 hrs. of birth (9)	Survived 28 days (10)	Total (11)	Died within 24 hrs. of birth (12)	Survived 28 days (13)	Total (14)	Died within 24 hrs. of birth (15)	Survived 28 days (16)
(a) 3-lb. 4-oz. or less (1,500 gms. or less)	11	7	4	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
(b) Over 3-lb. 4-oz. up to and including 4-lb. 6-oz. (1,500-2,000 gms.)	15	—	15	1	—	1	3	—	3	—	—	—	1	—	—
(c) Over 4-lb. 6-oz. up to and including 4-lb. 15-oz. (2,000-2,250 gms.)	15	1	14	1	—	1	5	—	5	5	—	5	2	—	2
(d) Over 4-lb. 15-oz. up to and including 5-lb. 8-oz. (2,250-2,500 gms.)	19	—	17	28	—	28	2	—	2	16	—	16	—	—	—
Totals	60	8	50	32	2	30	10	—	10	21	—	21	4	—	4
													19	1	1

* The Group under this heading will include cases which may be born in one hospital and transferred to another

Care of Premature Infants

For most of the year we were without the services of a Premature Baby Nurse, but Health Visitors and Midwives did their best to fill the gap. The following table gives the results of follow-up of certain of these premature babies:—

Born January to December, 1957

REPORT AT FOUR YEARS OF AGE

	Total	Average Wt./Ht.	Average Physical Develop.	Average Mental Develop.	Below Average Wt./Ht.	Below Average Physically	Below Average Mentally	Remarks
Group A	2	2	2	2	—	—	—	
Group B	12	9	10	10	3	2	2	1 Cerebral Palsy + Backward 1 Mongol
Group C	15	11	14	15	4	1	—	
Group D	34	29	34	34	5	—	—	

Born January to December, 1958

REPORT AT THREE YEARS OF AGE

	Total	Average Wt./Ht.	Average Physical Develop.	Average Mental Develop.	Below Average Wt./Ht.	Below Average Physically	Below Average Mentally	Remarks
Group A	9	5	8	8	4	1	1	1 Spastic + backward
Group B	13	9	11	11	4	2	2	1 Congenital heart defect + backward
Group C	25	22	23	24	3	2	1	1 Microcephalic 1 Mongol with Congenital heart disease
Group D	49	42	49	48	7	—	1	1 Congenital heart defect 1 Mentally backward

Born January to December, 1959

REPORT AT TWO YEARS OF AGE

	Total	Average Wt./Ht.	Average Physical Develop.	Average Mental Develop.	Below Average Wt./Ht.	Below Average Physically	Below Average Mentally	Remarks
Group A	6	5	6	6	1	—	—	
Group B	13	10	12	13	3	1	—	1 Congenital Cataract 1 Congenital Heart Disease
Group C	19	18	18	18	1	1	1	1 Spastic + backward
Group D	41	38	41	41	3	—	—	

Born January to December, 1960

REPORT AT ONE YEAR OF AGE

	Total	Average Wt./Ht.	Average Physical Develop.	Average Mental Develop.	Below Average Wt./Ht.	Below Average Physically	Below Average Mentally	Remarks
Group A	6	4	6	6	2	—	—	
Group B	24	19	20	22	5	4	2	1 Hydro- cephalic; Toxoplasmosis with diminished sight 1 Optic Atrophy (genetically determined)
Group C	30	28	30	29	2	—	1	1 Mongol
Group D	61	57	61	60	4	—	1	1 Microcephalic

Born January to June, 1961

REPORT AT SIX MONTHS OF AGE

	Total	Average Wt./Ht.	Average Physical Develop.	Average Mental Develop.	Below Average Wt./Ht.	Below Average Physically	Below Average Mentally	Remarks
Group A	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	
Group B	8	7	8	8	1	—	—	
Group C	13	11	13	13	2	—	—	1 Congenital Eye Defect
Group D	37	37	37	37	—	—	—	1 Arrested Hydrocephalic

Day Nurseries

Holybrook House continued to have a busy year. The following table gives the position as on December 31st, 1961.

Number of Approved Places		Number of Children on the Register at the end of the year		Average daily attendance for year	
0-2 yrs.	2-5 yrs.	0-2 yrs.	2-5 yrs.	0-2 yrs.	2-5 yrs.
20	30	23	32	19	25

Daily Average Attendance at Holybrook House for each month of the year, 1961
(Monday to Friday)

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Totals
Holybrook House ...	45	43	46	47	45	40	44	43	46	46	44	40	569

Child Minders

Our scheme of child minders, which is meant to supplement the Day Nursery, continued during the year. Six children were placed under this scheme; in addition, we were able to help in the placing of seventeen children under private arrangements. The demand for child minding is mainly in the central area of the town particularly with children of West Indian families. We find it is often difficult to place these children but, on the whole, I think things have improved since the introduction of the child minders scheme and the appointment of a Welfare Officer for Coloured Immigrants.

Coloured Immigrants

Members will recall that last year I reported the appointment of a Welfare Officer for Coloured Immigrants in Reading. She started duty in September, 1960, but unfortunately left us to go to London in December, 1961. Her report is given below. I am quite sure that this appointment has justified itself and we were fortunate in being able to replace Miss Dathorne without too great an interval:—

“During the period I have been here (September, 1960 to December, 1961), the service has been increasingly used by the West Indians in the area. Below are details of the people who came to the office for help during this time:—

Analysis of Problems

Misc.	Housing	Marital	Unmarried Mothers	Pre-migration Enquiries	Care of Children	TOTAL
42	41	12	27	27	23	172

Many of the housing enquiries were from married couples with young children, who were under notice to quit. In most cases I was unable to help them. I have, however, sometimes known of vacancies for single persons, or couples without children. In this period three women and two children were accommodated at Woodlands.

Long-term casework was undertaken in most cases where there was marital disharmony, much of it being the result of the stresses of a new environment. Much casework was also necessary when dealing with unmarried mothers, and here I worked in conjunction with the Children's Department, the Moral Welfare Worker, and the Health Visitors.

Many of the pre-migration enquiries were undertaken on behalf of the Migrant Services Division, and concerned children coming from the West Indies to join their parents, and children returning to the West Indies to be brought up by other relatives. Many parents experiencing difficulties in either direction, came for help and advice. There were a few enquiries concerning adults.

Several of the enquiries about care of children were from women who needed daily minders while they went out to work. A few were helped. The miscellaneous category included people who needed help in the interpretation of the statutory services, in filling in forms, etc. After an initial interview they were able to cope for themselves.

This year, an attempt was made to encourage West Indians to attend evening classes; to this end I visited many young people and discussed with them possible courses of study. A club was also started for West Indians. Meetings at first were held in houses, but later moved to Palmer Hall, by kind permission of the Secretary, Mr. Jackman. The meetings are held fortnightly, and activities have so far included talks, discussions, games evenings, a social evening, and a very successful dance. Membership is to date about 30, and there are always many visitors”.

N.S.P.C.C.

I am very grateful to Mr. Curran, the Local Inspector of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, for the following remarks:—

I have pleasure in reporting hereunder the work of my Society within the County Borough of Reading during 1961.

I was called to investigate 67 complaints which affected the welfare of 152 children. There were 38 cases of neglect in its varying forms, 15 cases were ones in which advice or aid was sought and the remaining 14 were of other causes.

It was not necessary to bring any cases before the magistrates court but two cases were brought before the Juvenile Court. The latter resulted in two children being placed under statutory supervision and restored to the parents, and only one child was taken from the care of the parents and committed to the care of the Children's Committee.

I believe that these figures, in themselves, reflect the high standard of the Child Welfare Services and parental care within the Borough. May I thank all those workers, both statutory and voluntary, with whom it has been my happy privilege to have been associated with during the year.

As the name of my Society implies, prevention is easier and better than trying to effect a cure to a situation that has deteriorated too far. Therefore, I would ask of all to report any knowledge they have of neglect or cruelty to children promptly, so that remedial action can be taken and perhaps a tragedy averted.

Dental Care of Expectant Mothers and Young Children

Mr. J. Campbell, L.D.S., Principal Dental Officer, reports as follows:—

Pre-School Children

The number of pre-school children attending for treatment varies very little from year to year. The number inspected is smaller but the number found to require treatment is only two less than the previous year.

It is regrettable, but the shortage of staff still restricts the expansion of this service.

Expectant and Nursing Mothers

The mothers who attended for treatment number the same as last year. Only one full upper denture was supplied. Once again, a "Health Education" month was held at Whitley Clinic during November, and the Oral Hygienist was in attendance to give instructions to mothers, attending the child welfare clinic.

The following tables give further details of the treatment carried out:—

TYPE OF TREATMENT GIVEN

	Pre-school	Ante-natal	Post-natal
Inspected	109	3	4
Found to require treatment ...	96	3	4
Treated	94	3	4
Attendances	132	8	8
Extractions	62	—	1
Local Anaesthetics	9	—	—
General Anaesthetics	20	—	1
Fillings	3	5	1
Clean and Polish	17	4	1
Dressings	8	2	1
Silver Nitrate	82	—	—
Full Dentures	—	—	1
Discharged	91	3	2

NUMBERS PROVIDED WITH DENTAL CARE

	Examined	Requiring Treatment	Treated	Made Dentally Fit
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	7	7	7	5
Children under five	109	96	94	91

32

FORMS OF DENTAL TREATMENT PROVIDED

	Scalings and gum treatment (2)	Fillings (3)	Silver Nitrate Treatment (4)	Crowns or Inlays (5)	Extractions (6)	General Anaesthetics (7)	Dentures Provided		Radio-graphs (10)
							Full Upper or Lower (8)	Partial Upper or Lower (9)	
(1)									
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	5	6	—	—	1	1	1	—	—
Children under five	17	3	82	—	62	20	—	—	—

SECTION 23—DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY

Unfortunately the number of whole-time domiciliary midwives employed during the year decreased to 8 out of an establishment of 15. To a certain extent we were able to remedy matters by the recruitment of 4 part-time midwives who carry out very valuable work in helping with clinics and with puerperal nursings. Nevertheless, this continued reluctance of women to take up domiciliary midwifery as a career gives rise to considerable concern, especially in view of the rising birth-rate and the higher standard of care demanded both by mothers and as a result of various departmental recommendations. Members will recall that one of the results of our agreement with the Q.V.I. in 1948 was that we virtually had two systems of domiciliary midwifery operating in the town—which was absurd. Steps were finally taken in 1961 to amalgamate the two services under the supervision of Miss Meacham, the non-medical Supervisor of Midwives. I am quite sure that this has enabled us to make better use of what few midwives we have and to make life a little easier for them.

The recruitment of pupil midwives continued satisfactorily throughout the year, but again, none of them wished to continue in domiciliary midwifery for a day longer than their training period. The use of Northcourt Avenue as a home exclusively for pupil midwives has been extremely popular, as has been the provision of one of the two flats at Tilehurst for the use of two pupils. I would like to repeat my plea for the provision of more flats for our midwives and district nurses. As I mentioned last year, it is up to individual local authorities to make working conditions as pleasant for these people as possible.

Another innovation which has attracted a good deal of interest is the introduction of a scheme for the central sterilization of equipment and the central issue of all maternity bags. A midwife now does not have to clean out and prepare her midwifery bag after she has been out to a confinement—(often in the early hours of the morning.) All she has to do is to return the used bag to the central clinic, Queen's Road, and pick up a fresh bag which contains all the necessary equipment already prepared and sterilized. I am pleased to report that the midwives have expressed great satisfaction with this new service. It has, I am sure, made life a little easier for them.

It will be seen from the table on page—that approximately 44·7% of the Reading confinements take place at home. Our work in connection with the examination of applications for confinement in a maternity home on social grounds has continued. During the year 843 applications were investigated, of which 564 were recommended for a maternity home bed and in 279 cases it was thought that the home circumstances were sufficiently good to justify a domiciliary confinement.

The following table gives comparative figures for each year since 1939:—

Year	Total Confinements	Domiciliary Confinements	Percentage of Total
1939	1,564	897	57.7
1940	1,725	931	54.0
1941	1,913	931	49.0
1942	1,833	858	46.8
1943	1,925	907	47.0
1944	2,139	925	43.2
1945	2,066	806	39.0
1946	2,226	791	35.5
1947	2,250	765	34.0
1948	2,100	645	30.7
1949	1,855	603	32.5
1950	1,809	559	30.9
1951	1,805	635	35.1
1952	1,767	614	34.7
1953	1,700	601	35.3
1954	1,678	615	36.6
1955	1,707	603	35.2
1956	1,784	699	39.2
1957	1,849	828	44.8
1958	1,970	878	44.6
1959	1,982	872	43.9
1960	2,062	965	46.8
1961	2,136	955	44.7

Stillbirths

There were 32 stillbirths reported during the year, including two sets of twins, as compared with 34 in the previous year. The stillbirth rate per thousand births during recent years has been as follows:—

1954	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	. 17.28
1955	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	23.00
1956	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	19.00
1957	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	25.20
1958	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	19.86
1959	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	20.28
1960	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	17.14
1961	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	15.29

An analysis of these 32 stillbirths revealed the following:—

- 24 occurred in Battle Hospital
- 4 occurred in Dellwood
- 4 occurred in Domiciliary practice

The probable causes were as follows:—

Domiciliary

Anencephalic	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Foetal asphyxia	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
No apparent cause	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Cord around neck	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
									<hr/> 4

Battle Hospital

Anencephalic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Intra Uterine death (one set of twins)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	7
Pre-eclampsia (one set of twins)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
Ante Partum Haemorrhage and Pre-eclampsia	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
Ante Partum Haemorrhage and Placenta praevia	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Ante Partum Haemorrhage (mixed)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Ante Partum Haemorrhage, Rh. incompatibility and hydrops foetalis	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Cord around neck	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Prolapsed cord	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Compressed cord ?	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Gross abnormalities	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Prematurity	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
									<hr/> 24

Dellwood

Intra Uterine death	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Prolapsed cord	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Placental insufficiency	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Prematurity	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
									<hr/> 4

Maternal Deaths

There were no maternal deaths during the year amongst Reading residents.

Puerperal Pyrexia

During the year only four cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified, but I am quite sure that many cases of puerperal pyrexia (as at present defined) are not notified.

Ophthalmia neonatorum

No cases were reported during the year.

Relaxation Classes

These are held at Star Lane Clinic and Tilehurst Clinic on Saturday afternoons. The figures are as follows:—

Tilehurst

No. of classes held	.	.	.	.	.	.	48
No. of persons attending	.	.	.	.	.	.	119
No. of attendances made	.	.	.	.	.	.	895

Star Lane

No. of classes held	.	.	.	.	.	.	48
No. of persons attending	.	.	.	.	.	.	180
No. of attendances made	.	.	.	.	.	.	366

Staphylococcal infection of the Newborn

Our investigation into domiciliary confinements continued in collaboration with Dr. Woods of the Public Health Laboratory Service. Altogether 142 sets of swabs were taken with the following result:—

Baby's eye mixed growth	.	.	.	.	.	.	65
Baby's eye, nose umbilicus S.P.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Baby's eye, nose mixed growth	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Baby's eye and skin S.P.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Nothing of note	.	.	.	.	.	.	26
Baby's finger, mixed growth	.	.	.	.	.	.	4
Baby's eye, mixed growth plus S.P.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Baby's nose, mixed growth plus S.P.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Baby's spot and nose, also mother's nose S.P.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Baby's eye, S.P.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4
Baby's spot, mixed growth	.	.	.	.	.	.	6
Baby's eye, sporing aerobic bacilli	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Baby's eye and nose, also mother's nose S.P.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4
Baby's eye and nose S.P.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4
Baby's eye and skin, mixed growth	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Baby nil, Mother's nose S.P.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Baby, groin coliforms	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Baby's eye and Mother's nose S.P.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5
Baby's face, S.A.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Baby's spot and hand S.A.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Baby's finger, S.P.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Baby's fingers and nose S.P. Mother and Midwives nil	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Baby's cord modi, coliform	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Baby's nose and hand, Mother's nose S.P.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Midwife's nose and throat nil	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Baby's spot and nose S.P.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Baby's eye and hand S.P.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Total							142

S.P.=Staphylococcus Pyogenes

S.A.=Staphylococcus Albus

Early Discharge of Patients from Hospital

During the year we were asked to continue with the puerperal nursing of mothers who were discharged from hospitals, and also to attend to babies because they required continuous attention.

Coombs Test

Our arrangements whereby midwives can take samples of cord blood for Coombs Test in Rh. negative mothers who were confined at home continued. During the year 89 samples were taken.

Total Births which occurred in the Borough—Reading and Non-Reading Residents (based on notifications)

Births

Male	.	.	1,914	Legitimate	.	3,487	Live	.	3,499
Female	.	.	1,686	Illegitimate	—	113	Still	.	101

Weights

2 lb. 3 oz. or under	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	26
2 lb. 4 oz.—3 lb. 4 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	45
3 lb. 5 oz.—4 lb. 6 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	69
4 lb. 7 oz.—4 lb. 15 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	68
5 lb.—5 lb. 7 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	151
5 lb. 8 oz.—5 lb. 15 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	185
6 lb.—6 lb. 7 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	379
6 lb. 8 oz.—6 lb. 15 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	583
7 lb.—7 lb. 7 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	651
7 lb. 8 oz. or over	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,492

Place of Birth

Domiciliary	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	965
Hospital	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,874
H.M.C. Maternity Homes	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	491
Contractual	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	256

Dellwood

Number of patients delivered by midwives	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	491
Number of patients delivered by doctors	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	16
Number of infants wholly breast fed	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	482
Maternal Deaths	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	—

Particulars of Confinements of Reading Women Inside and Outside the Borough (based on notifications)

Births

Male .	1,135	Legitimate .	2,117	Live .	2,161
Female	1,059	Illegitimate .	77	Still .	33

Weights

2 lb. 3 oz. or under	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	7
2 lb. 4 oz.—3 lb. 4 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	16
3 lb. 5 oz.—4 lb. 6oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	26
4 lb. 7 oz.—4 lb. 15 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	34
5 lb.—5 lb. 7 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	79
5 lb. 8 oz.—5 lb. 15 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	99
6 lb.—6 lb. 7 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	242
6 lb. 8 oz.—6 lb. 15 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	332
7 lb.—7 lb. 7 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	419
7 lb. 8 oz. or over	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	940

Place of Birth

Born in Borough	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,117
Outside Borough	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	77

Domiciliary

Inside Borough	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	955
Outside Borough	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5

Hospital

Battle (booked)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	633
Other	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5

H.M.C. Maternity Homes

Dellwood	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	391
Wallingford	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	—
Townlands	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	24
Wokingham	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	13
Sandleford	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	—

Contractual (Arrangements with nursing homes)

Chiltern	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	154
Domiciliary cases attended during labour by doctor	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	340
Domiciliary cases attended during labour by midwife only	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	620

PERIOD OF GESTATION

No. of Weeks	Total Borough Births	Other Area Births in the Borough	All Births in the Borough
24	1	1	2
25	—	—	—
26	3	—	3
27	1	3	4
28	1	10	11
29	1	2	3
30	3	12	15
31	3	4	7
32	3	12	15
33	4	13	17
34	12	22	34
35	11	16	27
36	50	43	93
37	66	50	116
38	125	138	263
39	212	140	352
40	1,312	815	2,127
41	178	93	271
42	113	86	199
43	11	20	31
44	7	3	10
45	—	—	—
	2,117	1,483	3,600

CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS, 1961

Cause	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total under 1 year
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Other heart disease ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	3
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
Congenital malformations ...	9	1	—	1	11	3	—	—	—	14
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	12	—	—	—	12	2	1	—	—	15
All other accidents ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Homocide and operations of war ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Totals ...	24	1	—	1	26	9	4	1	—	40

		Number of Midwives practising in the area of the Local Super- vising Authority at the end of the year		
		Domiciliary Midwives	Midwives in Institutions	Total
(a)	Midwives employed by the Authority	16	—	16
(b)	Midwives employed by Voluntary Organisations—			
(i)	Under arrangements with the Local Health Authority in pursuance of Section 23 of the National Health Service Act, 1946	—	—	—
(ii)	Otherwise (including Hospi- tals not transferred to the Minister under the National Health Service Act) ...	—	—	—
(c)	Midwives employed by Hospital Management Committees or Boards of Governors under the National Health Service Act—			
(i)	Under arrangements with the Local Health Authority in pursuance of Section 23 of the National Health Service Act, 1946	—	—	—
(ii)	Otherwise	—	32	32
(d)	Midwives in Private Practice (in- cluding Midwives employed in Nursing Homes)	—	6	6
Total ...		16	38	54

Number of Deliveries attended by Midwives in the Area during the year

	Domiciliary Cases				Totals	Cases in Institution
	Doctor not booked		Doctor booked			
	Doctor present at time of delivery of child (2)	Doctor not present at time of delivery of child (3)	Doctor present at time of delivery of child (either the booked Doctor or another) (4)	Doctor not present at time of delivery of child (5)		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	
(a) Midwives employed by the Authority ...	—	42	338	575	955	—
(b) Midwives employed by Voluntary Organisations :—						
(i) Under arrangements with the Local Health Authority in pursuance of Section 23 of the National Health Service Act, 1946 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
(ii) Otherwise (including Hospitals not transferred to the Minister under the National Health Service Act) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Midwives employed by Hospital Management Committees or Boards of Governors under the National Health Service Act ...	—	—	—	—	—	2,291
(d) Midwives in Private Practice (including Midwives employed in Nursing Homes) ...	—	—	—	—	—	272
Totals ...	—	42	338	575	955	2,563

(1)	Number of <i>Domiciliary</i> Midwives prac- tising in the area at end of year who were qualified to administer inhalational analgesics in accordance with the requirements of the Central Mid- wives Board (2)	Number of sets of apparatus for the administration of inhalational analgesics in use at end of year		Number of cases in which inhalational analgesics were administered by midwives in <i>domiciliary</i> practice during the year				Number of cases in which pethidine was administered by midwives in <i>domiciliary</i> practice during the year	
		Gas and air (3)	" Trilene "	When doctor was present at time of delivery of child		When doctor was not present at time of delivery of child		When doctor was present at time of delivery of child	
			(4)	Gas and air (5)	" Trilene " (6)	Gas and air (7)	" Trilene " (8)	(9)	(10)
(a) Domiciliary Midwives em- ployed directly by the Local Health Authority	8	14	13	141	238	184	401	154	208
(b) Domiciliary Midwives em- ployed under Section 23 by voluntary organisations as agents of Local Health Authority	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Domiciliary Midwives em- ployed under Section 23 by hospital authorities as agents of Local Health Authority	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(d) Domiciliary Midwives in private practice or em- ployed by organisations not acting as agents of Local Health Authority	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	8	14	13	141	238	184	401	154	208

SECTION 24—HEALTH VISITING

The shortage of Health Visitors continues and repeated advertisements have failed to bring forward any trained staff. Sponsored students will only replace retirements that are expected during the next few years and will not increase the existing number of staff. During the year Miss J. Field completed her training and commenced duties in August, 1961. Miss C. M. Thomas joined the staff and commenced duties in January, 1961. In July Miss E. Few was appointed Group Advisor—second appointment of Group Adviser—from the existing staff. Miss Honeyball sponsored by Reading, commenced her health visiting training at the Royal College of Nursing in September and will be returning to Reading in August, 1962.

The Department was greatly upset by the sad bereavement of Mrs. L. Kingsley who had worked as a Health Visitor in Reading for many years. She has been greatly missed by all her colleagues.

The number of staff at the end of the year was as follows:—

Superintendent Health Visitor/School Nurse	1
Group Advisors	2
Whole-time Health Visitors/School Nurses . .	11
Part-time Health Visitors/School Nurses	1
Whole-time School Nurses (permanent) . . .	3
Part-time School Nurses (temporary) . . .	3
Tuberculosis Visitors	2
Establishment is	28

The following table gives particulars of work carried out by Health Visitors during the year:—

Primary visits to babies under 1 year of age . .	2,081
Return visits to babies under 1 year of age . .	7,613
Total visits to children aged 1-2 years . . .	5,083
Total visits to children aged 2-5 years . . .	11,648
Total number of children visited, first visit only .	8,478
Total number of families visited, first visit only .	6,435
Total first visits to expectant mothers . . .	401
Total return visits to expectant mothers . . .	117
Total number of visits to old people for hospital assessment	17
Total number of visits for hospital after-care .	700
Total number of miscellaneous visits . . .	2,309
Total number of visits to Tuberculosis households .	12
Total number of infant death investigations . .	37
Total number of effectual visits	30,428
Total number of ineffectual visits	5,408
Total number of attendances at clinics	1,587

Mothercraft Classes

These have continued throughout the year at four welfare clinics. One hundred and seventy-nine classes have been held. Two hundred and twenty-eight primipara have attended for these courses. Two hundred and eleven primipara were booked for domiciliary deliveries.

Nursery Nurses Training—Technical College, Reading.

We have continued to help with the syllabus as in the past and a link with the course has helped us in knowing the particular needs of the students when they visit the welfare clinics.

City and Guilds of London—Domestic Subjects—Technical College

We have continued to cover a section of this course as before and four talks were given on First Aid—treatment and prevention of accidents in the home.

One Health Visitor/School Nurse has taken part in three courses of lectures at the Technical College.

SECTION 25—HOME NURSING

During the year the Home Nursing Service came under the direct administration of the Council. Miss Edwards continued as Superintendent of the Home Nurses, and she reports as follows:—

The pattern of Home Nursing has changed very little during the past year. Our work has again been chiefly caring for the elderly sick—admission to hospital of these patients living alone, and for those patients who can be rehabilitated has been much easier.

A new feature of our work has been attending babies from seven to ten days old discharged from maternity hospitals and still needing a little care.

We still continue to give many injections, including penicillin and streptomycin; the latter treatment invariably continuing for one year or longer in daily or twice-weekly injections on the discharge of the patient from hospital.

Increased facilities and a very satisfactory supply of equipment of all kinds has helped the Home Nurse considerably in her work.

Recruiting student district nurses and full-time district nurses has been extremely difficult during the latter part of the year. Part-time married women are available but they are very rarely able to work on Saturdays and never on Sundays. This puts a severe strain on the full-time district nurses, also on the administrative staff, in record-keeping and district management.

The incidence of sickness amongst the staff has been very small.

Arranging the study programme for the course of district nurse training has been made very easy by the co-operation of the lecturers, local authority officers, and hospital staffs.

Student nurses from the Royal Berkshire Hospital still continue to spend a morning on the district with the nurses.

The number of staff at the end of the year was as follows:—

Superintendent	1
Assistant Superintendents	1
District nurses who have completed their period of contract	5
District nurses completing their contract of service	—
Student Nurses	1
Male nurses completing their contract of service .	—
Non-district trained nurses:—	
Full-time	2
Part-time	11
Establishment is (Administrative Staff) . .	4
(Trained District Nurses) .	23

The following table gives the statistical summary of the visits paid by nurses to various types of cases during the year:—

	<i>Number of Cases</i>	<i>Number of Visits</i>
Medical	1,204	47,110
Surgical	270	6,416
Infectious disease	1	39
Tuberculosis	15	1,453
Maternal complications	14	282
Others	377	1,384
	—	—
	1,881	56,684
	—	—

The following information is also of interest:—1,030 of the patients visited were aged 65 or over at the time of the first visit and altogether they received 42,939 visits. Of this number 38 received more than 24 visits during the year and, in fact, received a total of 23,729 visits. 117 cases were under the age of five at the time of the first visit during the year and they received 490 visits.

The following table gives a comparison of home nursing work carried out since 1949, but I would repeat that a decrease compared with the earlier years is due to the separation of work in the Earley area and the corresponding loss of staff:—

Year	Number of cases nursed	Total number of visits
1949	2,741	92,000
1950	2,761	84,029
1951	2,831	66,937
1952	3,082	74,168
1953	3,490	77,717
1954	3,294	81,089
1955	3,443	79,088
1956	2,380	79,738
1957	2,712	79,465
1958	2,440	77,836
1959	,144	69,087
1960	1,845	60,599
1961	1,181	56,684

SECTION 26—Vaccination and Immunisation (excluding B.C.G.)

During the year we followed the timetable described in my last Annual Report, but there were considerable difficulties in the supply of Salk vaccine. We were asked to give a fourth dose of vaccine to children between the ages of 5 and 12, but work had hardly started before the supply of vaccine decreased. In the autumn we received news that Sabin vaccine would be available and, in fact, supplies commenced to arrive early in 1962.

The number of children who have completed a primary course (normally 3 injections) of pertussis vaccine (singly or in combination) in the Authority's area during the year ended 31st December, 1961, is as follows:—

Year of birth	Number of Children
1961	633
1960	1,025
1959	178
1958	66
1957	43
1952-1956	218
1947-1951	44
Total:	2,207

Booster Doses for Diphtheria alone	515
Booster Doses — Combined Whooping Cough and Diphtheria	389
Whooping Cough	—
Combined Whooping Cough, Diphtheria and Tetanus	970

Vaccinations performed during 1961

Age at 31/12/61 (i.e. born in year)	Under 1 year	1 year	2-4	5-14	15 or over	Total
Number Vaccinated	1,209	100	57	58	72	1,496
Number Re-vaccinated	17	5	5	15	108	150

Vaccination Figures for Period January 1st to December 31st, 1961

Vaccination against Smallpox

Clinic	Sessions	0-6 months	7-12 months	over 12 months	Totals
Grovelands .	15	41	22	3	66
Whitley .	25	82	25	8	115 (2)
Tilehurst .	26	79	18	15	112 (2)
Caversham . Queen's Rd.	12	36	16	6	58 (1)
School Queen's Rd.	28	88	38	52	178 (27)
Southcote .	23	69	17	15	101 (15)
Emmer Green	12	19	4	3	26 (-)
Carried out by Private Prac- titioners .	—	478	194	318	990 (103)
Totals . .	—	892	334	420	1,646 (150)

Figures in parenthesis denote re-vaccination

IMMUNISATION FIGURES FOR PERIOD JANUARY 1st, to DECEMBER 31st, 1961

Clinic	Sessions	No. of children who completed a course of Immunisation against:-	Diphtheria	Diphtheria and Whooping Cough	Whooping Cough	Tetanus	Diphtheria and Tetanus	Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus	Polio myelitis	No. of children who received a reinforcing injection against:-	Diphtheria	Diphtheria and Whooping Cough	Whooping Cough	Tetanus	Diphtheria and Tetanus	Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus	Polio myelitis	Totals
Grovelands	16		2			11	22	106	206		45	21				48	163	624
Caversham (Queen's Rd.)	12		5			13	8	56	94		26	35				41	87	365
Emmer Green	12		3			15	6	32	59		27	8				41	70	262
School (Queen's Rd.)	29		26			45	49	201	302		77	68			3	138	262	1176
Whitley	27		18			10	60	164	233		68	58				80	188	891
Tilehurst	26		3			59	15	126	204		70	76				98	217	868
Southcote	26					23	7	89	142		40	21		1	1	77	151	553
Carried out by General Practitioners			4			38	16	1181	3412		162	102			49	447	5090	10540
Schools									1								1387	1388
Adult Sessions									294								1937	2231
Totals			61	57	1	214	183	1955	4947		515	389		1	53	970	9552	18898

Poliomyelitis Vaccination

The following table gives particulars of the persons who *completed* a course of immunisation during the year:—

		<i>Total vaccinations since inception</i>
Children born in the years 1943 to 1961	2,683	27,653
Young Persons born in the years 1933 to 1942	768	9,269
Persons born before 1933 and under 40 years	1,440	5,086
Others	56	129
General practitioners and their families	Nil	121
Ambulance staff and their families	Nil	31
Hospital staff, medical students and their families	Nil	289
Expectant mothers	Nil	1,449
	<hr/> 4,947	<hr/> 44,027
Number of persons who have received third injections	<hr/> 6,470	<hr/> 37,166
Number of persons who have received fourth injections	<hr/> 3,082	<hr/> 3,082
Total	<hr/> *14,499	

*Of the above, 8,502 were done by G.P.'s.

SECTION 27—AMBULANCE SERVICE

The Ambulance Service was inaugurated in July, 1948, and is under the operational control of the Transport Manager and Engineer. I am grateful to him and his staff for the manner in which they have carried out their tasks under conditions of increasing difficulties.

The following table gives particulars of the work carried out since 1949 for Borough and non-Borough duties:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Journeys</i>	<i>Patients</i>	<i>Mileage</i>
1949	8,797	10,098	88,884
1950	10,702	12,165	106,256
1951	12,176	14,097	119,839
1952	15,649	18,096	139,596
1953	19,357	23,482	155,528
1954	21,361	24,453	159,361
1955	22,224	26,207	162,369
1956	23,681	27,296	152,241
1957	24,141	27,758	155,283
1958	25,526	31,883	164,949
1959	32,121	35,485	167,292
1960	34,905	37,939	174,483
1961	35,332	38,469	183,896

A Summary of work carried out during 1961 is tabulated below:—

	CALLS		PATIENTS		MILES	
	①	②	①	②	①	②
Emergency (999 Calls) ...	1,937	1,548	1,931	1,490	10,271	6,196
Urgent and Non-urgent Calls ...	33,271	28,234	36,468	31,033	171,380	111,564
Flying Squad Duties ...	124	—	70	—	2,245	—
Stretcher Cases ...	14,875	11,016	16,056	11,798	108,897	62,087
Sitting/Walking Cases ...	20,457	18,766	22,413	20,725	74,999	55,673
① <i>Total All Areas</i>		② <i>Non-Rechargeable Cases</i>				

The above figures do not include the considerable number of duties which are received by the Ambulance Service and passed either to the Hospital Car Service or adjacent Ambulance Services.

In the majority of these duties, the mileage is charged directly to the Authority financially responsible for the duty and records of this work are not recorded in any of our tabulations.

Ambulance Fleet and Personnel

The fleet available for all purposes on 31st December, 1961, consisted of 13 Dual-Purpose ambulances.

There are 5 Ambulance Regulators and 25 Ambulance Driver/Attendants to meet the requirements of the 24 hour service provided.

It is anticipated that the three additional Driver/Attendants, as sanctioned, will be engaged during the early part of the financial year.

Dunlop Pneuride Pneumatic Suspension

Six of the latest ambulances are now fitted with pneumatic suspension and the comfort afforded to the patients is most noticeable. It is anticipated that all new ambulances will be equipped with this type of suspension.

Increased Demand

During the past year, owing to the short-stay and “quick turnover” of hospital patients, there has been a noticeable increase in stretcher patients.

Ambulance and Hospital Car Service

	PATIENTS			MILEAGE			MILES PER PATIENT		
	1959	1960	1961	1959	1960	1961	1959	1960	1961
AMBULANCE SERVICE									
35,485	37,939	38,469	167,292	174,483	183,896	4.71	4.60	4.78	
HOSPITAL CAR SERVICE									
6,572	7,120	6,968	57,725	65,663	64,199	8.78	9.22	9.21	
42,057	45,059	45,437	225,017	240,146	248,095	5.35	5.33	5.46	

Radio Control

This method of communication with all ambulances continued to function most satisfactorily.

General

With the introduction of diesel/electric motor coaches on British Railways, the problem of carrying stretcher cases in compartments is becoming more difficult. I do appreciate the co-operation given by British Railways in reserving compartments for both stretcher and sitting/walking patients and their close liaison with this Ambulance Service in all matters relating to the conveyance of patients by Ambulance/Train/Ambulance. In this respect, 179 patients were carried on long distance journeys by rail during the year, thus giving the Ambulance Service greater availability of vehicles to deal with local duties.

A high degree of co-operation exists between the Borough, Berkshire and Oxfordshire Police Forces, the Berkshire and Reading Fire Brigade, and the Ambulance Service. These three services have worked together with considerable understanding at many incidents during the past year.

Appreciation is expressed for the continued excellent service rendered by the Hospital Car Service in carrying sitting/walking patients, very often at extremely short notice during the periods when the Ambulance Service resources are "saturated".

Both the British Red Cross Society and the St. John Ambulance Brigade have assisted in providing escorts from time to time, a service which is very much appreciated.

SECTION 28—PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

A. Tuberculosis (see also Section re Infectious Disease)

Arrangements for the care and after-care of tuberculous patients continued on lines similar to previous years. A great deal of work is done by the Council in providing extra milk, nursing apparatus, convalescent holidays, etc. This is supplemented by the Reading Care Association for Tuberculosis & Diseases of the Chest. Unfortunately, Miss Hartley left our service on her marriage and we had not been able to replace her by the end of the year.

(a) The Reading Care Association for Tuberculosis and Diseases of the Chest

The Secretary reports as follows:—

The Association has continued its work of filling the gaps left by statutory provisions. Its ways of helping remain flexible and adaptable to meet current needs. During the past year grants have been made for such needs as clothing and footwear, radios (repairs, batteries and licences), holidays for relatives caring for patients, bedding, furnishings, extra nourishment (milk, groceries, etc.), pocket money, payment of fares for relatives to visit patients in hospital and help towards debts accruing through illness.

The fuel scheme provided 115 patients with additional coal.

Despite some difficulty the Association's Gardening Scheme was carried through whereby patients' gardens were maintained. Steps have already been taken to improve this service during 1962. The patients, through the Association, are grateful to Messrs. Sutton & Sons Ltd. for giving large consignments of seeds.

The St. John's Ambulance and British Red Cross have continued their valuable Library Service by issuing books to patients confined to their own homes.

At Christmastide, 76 food vouchers, valued at £1 each, were distributed to patients receiving home treatment and this was supplemented by a huge hamper generously given by "Quality Fare". Toys were distributed to children of patients whose income level was low.

The Association participated in the Mayor of Reading's Autumn Market which not only produced funds but brought its aims and objects to the notice of the public.

(b) Tuberculosis Christmas Seal Sale

The Secretary reports as follows:—

The 19 members of the Organising Committee together with 9 friends of the organisation have in varying ways devoted much of their time and talents into making the 1961 venture a successful one. At the time of writing this report the money raised by the sale of half-penny seals was £658 17s. 1d., and this was £195 in excess of that at the closing date of the previous year.

The Committee are grateful to his Worship the Mayor of Reading (Alderman J. C. Woodrow, J.P.) for launching the appeal and for the kindly interest he has taken in its progress. The response by Borough residents and by places of employment and their employees has been most gratifying.

Once again over £100 was raised at the several selling centres and the Committee are grateful to the managements for allowing the use of part of their premises for this purpose, viz: Heelas Ltd., Palmer Hall, Reading Cattle Market, Reading Co-operative Society (Cheapside and London Road stores), Tutty Ltd., and Wellsteeds Ltd. In addition, seals have been on sale at the Chest Clinic and Health Department. Appreciation was expressed to the 31 seal sellers who gave their services so willingly.

During the year under review the Committee have also organised a fashion show, two concerts and a bring-and-buy sale. The fashion show was held in the Great Western Hotel which was filled to overflowing and brought in £41. The bring-and-buy sale which was held jointly with the first concert given by the "Spotlights Concert Party" in the Sir Hermann Gollancz Hall produced nearly £43. The second concert held in the same hall and given by the Reading Borough Police Male Voice Choir (by kind permission of A. Iveson, Esq., Chief Constable) yielded just over £21. On both occasions the hall was filled to capacity. It would be too long a catalogue to make individual mention of all those who shared in these ventures but the Committee are indeed very grateful to each and every one of them.

(c) Occupational Therapy

During the year Miss Saunders retired as Occupational Therapist for tuberculous patients after having given many years of devoted service to this work. This occasion provided us with the opportunity to amalgamate occupational therapy for tuberculous patients with occupational therapy for "other classes of handicapped persons" under Miss Turner, and in future no distinction will be made, so far as this Report

is concerned, between occupational therapy for tuberculous patients and for "other classes of handicapped persons". The number of tuberculous patients has decreased along with the reduction in the incidence of tuberculosis, and occupational therapy is given to them on a domiciliary basis.

Miss D. Turner continued her work as Occupational Therapist and has submitted the following information:—

During 1961, the volume of work done at the Occupational Therapy Centre has increased, and as many as 40 patients have attended in one day. More time has been put in on the industrial work whenever it is forthcoming; contact has been made with more outside firms who have provided us with suitable jobs in the way of carpentry and light assembly work, and we look forward to expanding this side still further.

However, as regards craftwork, making articles for the home is always popular, and many patients continue doing embroidery, weaving, canework, toys and novelties of all kinds; these are sent to the Helping Hand Shop if the patient wishes to earn whatever profit can be gained in this way.

The craftwork and industrial work go on side by side, but more space is needed for both, particularly for storage, and we hope to have larger premises in the future in which case it will be possible to separate the two, thus avoiding unnecessary noise in the craftroom.

Between 20 and 30 patients have been visited at home during the year and given some sort of work. Some of these have eventually improved sufficiently to attend the Centre.

The monthly social afternoon is much appreciated by the majority of the patients. Indeed, it would be possible to accommodate greater numbers if larger premises were available. Entertainment has been provided by various kind friends—particular mention must be made of a group of the Reading Afternoon Townswomen's Guild who, headed by Mrs. Otton of 618, Oxford Road, gave us some delightful music. A film show was also given by kind courtesy of Brooke Bond Tea. We were pleased to have a visit from the Mayor and Mayoress, Alderman and Mrs. Woodrow, at our Christmas Party.

On a sunny day in June, a party of handicapped persons paid a visit to Hampton Court, where tea was taken. There was also time to push the wheelchair patients through the grounds, which they much enjoyed.

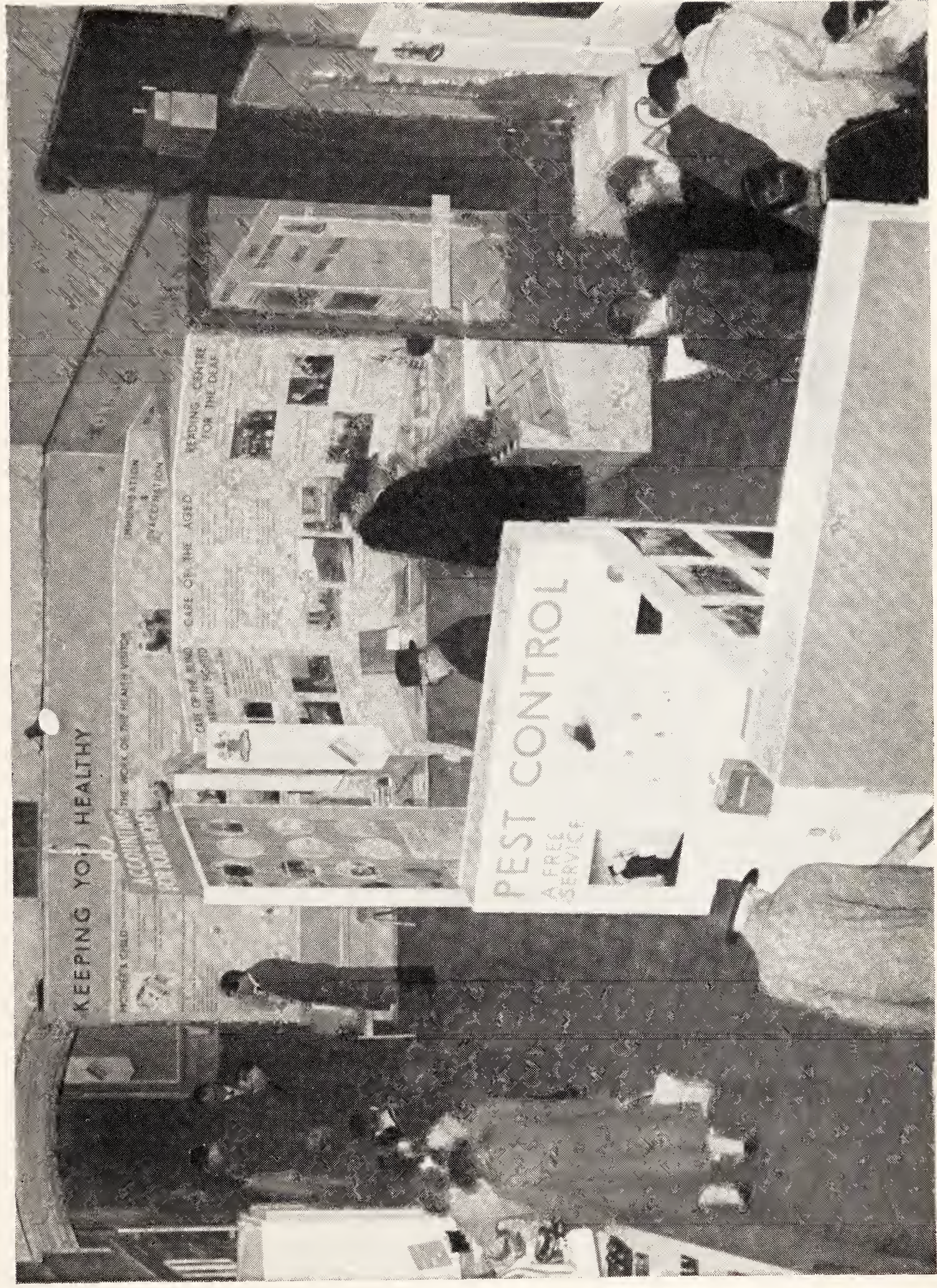
(d) B.C.G. Vaccination

During the year 322 vaccinations of contacts were carried out. The total number of contacts vaccinated since 1950 is now 3,617.

Vaccination of school leavers has continued throughout the year in conjunction with the Oxford Regional Hospital Board. Freeze-dried vaccine has been used.

The number of school leavers are as follows:—

Number skin tested	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,654
Number found negative	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,545
Number vaccinated	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,542



Stalls showing various sections of the Public Health Department

B. Provision of Nursing Equipment and Apparatus

The demand for nursing equipment continued to increase and we have been fortunate in that our premises at No. 1, London Street, allow better storage for this type of equipment. By this means it has been possible to reduce the waiting period between application for a particular item and its issue.

During the year 1,534 articles were distributed.

C. Provision of Convalescent Holidays

During the year 48 patients, including 38 adults and 10 children, were sent away for a period of convalescence under the Council's scheme. Also 4 adults and children were assisted with travelling expenses only.

D. Health Education (See also section re Health Visiting, report of Chief Public Health Inspector, and report of School Medical Officer, and section re Mental Health)

Welcome to Citizenship Exhibition

The department participated in this exhibition, which was held from February 1st to 4th. The various activities of the department were portrayed in as simplified manner as possible so as to give the general public an idea of the scope of the work carried out by the Reading Public Health Department.

In one corner of the art gallery was shown the work of the personal health and welfare services. The Public Health Inspectors showed various aspects of their work, i.e. Clean Air, Housing, Food Sampling and Food Hygiene, Rodent Control, etc. in other parts of the gallery. The School Health Service also had a separate stand in another part of the exhibition. Every stand was constructed and laid out in such a way that it could be used again in subsequent years. Much work was put into this exhibition by the various sections despite the fact that they still had to carry on with their other numerous routine duties.

(Further reference to the exhibition will be found in other sections of the report).

Apart from the above-mentioned exhibition no special campaign was carried out during the year. A high proportion of the work of health visitors, midwives, doctors at infant welfare clinics, and at school medical inspections is, of course, devoted to health education in respect of individual problems.

E. Work of the Family Welfare Officers—Prevention of Break-up of Families

Circular 27/54)

For the most of this year this section has been fully staffed as Miss Matthews joined Mrs. Hall in February, 1961. As a result it has been possible to increase the case load, and 36 families have been visited in comparison with 22 the previous year.

This is in addition to the work done in connection with the Family Aid Group and with regard to accommodation and homeless families.

These 36 families may be classified as follows:—

(a) Eight are definite Problem Families with whom casework has been undertaken on a long-term basis. They all have been known to the department for several years, and the main objective is to enable them to cope with both normal circumstance and not in-frequent crises which occur. No rapid results can be expected from this long-term casework.

(b) Another five families have problems stemming from physical handicaps, two involving tragic accidents, and one parent being an epileptic in the remaining three.

(c) A further eight families have been visited over long periods either constantly or intermittently because of rent arrears. It is found that rent arrears are usually symptomatic of other problems.

(d) At least ten more families have been visited for short periods for the same reason.

(e) Investigations and regular visits concerning arrears of mortgage payments account for a further seven families. Apart from rent and mortgage arrears, other financial problems have frequently been dealt with connected with hire purchase and club commitments.

These 36 families have 126 children, 50% of which are under school age, beside others of over 15 years who are still living at home.

In the past five years the number of families coming to the office in need of help have more than trebled. Although the majority of people came with accommodation difficulties, there has been a sharp rise in the number calling with other problems. Many of these are people already visited by the Family Caseworkers.

Families threatened with eviction proves a constant source of worry and the number of such people calling at the office has nearly doubled over the year. An increasing proportion of these are immigrants to Reading.

Total Calls	New	Repeats	Reason for call			
			General Acc.	Threatened Eviction	Homeless	Miscellaneous and P.F.'s
441 (398)	195 (165)	246 (230)	191 (255)	112 (59)	14 (22)	124 (62)

The 1960 figures are shown in brackets underneath

Homeless Families

During 1961, 14 mothers with 32 children and also 1 single woman have been admitted to Woodlands. The number of admissions are relatively small when compared with the number of people threatened with eviction or homeless but it is still

much higher than it was two years ago. It is becoming increasingly difficult for families to find accommodation and their stay at Woodlands is tending to be considerably longer than in previous years. During 1961 there has always been at least two families in residence.

Of those families admitted to Woodlands two were rehoused by the Council, the others went to relatives or rooms.

Reading Family Aid Group

The Group consists of the Chairman, Mrs. Salzmann; the Treasurer and Secretary, Mrs. Jewell; two Health Department Family Caseworkers, Mrs. Hall and Miss Matthews; and four voluntary caseworkers, Mrs. Ditchburn, Mrs. Beresford, Mrs. Parmenter and Mrs. Stedman. Close co-operation is maintained with the statutory bodies of the Local Authority concerned with family casework, and also with the N.S.P.C.C. Officer who attends the Group meetings. The services of the Home-making organiser, Miss Roxbee, are of great value in the training of mothers.

During 1961 we were sorry to lose Miss Claisse, who initiated this work and has always taken a keen interest in the Group, and also Mrs. Brook who, as Secretary and Treasurer, gave such devoted voluntary service.

The Family Aid Group has been giving voluntary service to Reading for ten years. Throughout that time their aim has remained unchanged, that is to maintain and support problem families and thereby to avoid their disintegration. This preventative social work is greatly stressed by the Home Office at the present time. Forty-eight families in all have been supervised by the Group during its ten years' existence. Twenty-six of these have been closed: twenty-two families are currently visited, seven by the Family Case Workers and fifteen by the voluntary members. There are a total of 117 children belonging to these families so that the potential problems are obvious.

In co-operation with various bodies it has been possible to send sixteen children away on holidays this year. A number of outings and Christmas parties have also been arranged for the children, these included two coach trips to Hayling Island, and one for mothers and children arranged by local taximen. Once more the Reading B.P. Scout Guild have taken an interest in the Group's work and twelve boys had several outings with them on Sundays during the summer.

The Balance Sheet shows that about £100 p.a. is used for the work, and this comes entirely from voluntary sources.

In addition to the Family Aid Group constituted as above which is primarily concerned with casework, there is another section of the Group composed entirely of voluntary workers who are responsible for the clothing and furniture stores from which material aid is given to the families at the discretion of the caseworker. This voluntary group also raises funds for the work, holidays and outings. They would like to thank all subscribers for their continued interest, financial help and material gifts.

SECTION 29—HOME HELP SERVICE

The Home Help Service had a very busy year and towards the end of 1960 it was obvious that we were facing a crisis. The work is exacting, often unpleasant, and I regret to have to report that towards the end of the year a number of Helps

left the service and we were not able to replace them. There is a plethora of well-paid part-time work in the town and I am sure that this is having its effect. Once again I would like to pay a very high tribute to the Supervisors for their continued interest and close attention to the detailed administration of this important service, and also to the Helps themselves. I think members should know that there are numerous incidents where Helps have gone to provide extra assistance or extra attention to old people or invalids during their own time. This is the sort of thing which illustrates the high sense of duty which motivates so many of our Home Helps.

The following is a summary of the cases in which help was provided during the year:—

Maternity (including expectant mothers)	.	.	334
Tuberculosis	.	.	3
Chronic Sick (including aged and infirm)	.	.	1,247
Others	.	.	235
			<hr/>
			1,819
			<hr/>

The number in which help began prior to 1961:—

Maternity cases (including expectant mothers)	.	15
Tuberculosis	.	2
Chronic Sick (including aged and infirm)	—	836
Others	.	78

The number of Domestic Helps employed at the end of the year was as follows:—

Whole-time	.	1
Part-time	.	185
Whole-time equivalent	.	98.8

During the year the Queen Victoria Institute took over the Night Attendant Service. This is a difficult service to administer because, strange as it may seem, the demands do not seem to be great and they are intermittent.

SECTION 29—DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

Work performed		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Number of current cases on last day of period:—													
(a) Part-time	.. .. .	923	940	925	942	931	957	948	951	931	921	930	918
(b) Full-time	.. .. .	6	10	6	6	7	15	1	8	9	6	5	8
Classification of reasons why help was received on last day of period:—													
(a) Old age, infirmity, and chronic sickness	.. .. .	848	855	843	862	852	863	867	865	856	862	870	860
(b) Acute sickness and convalescence	.. .. .	67	77	73	65	69	76	69	75	68	54	55	52
(c) Maternity cases (including miscarriages and discharges from hospital)	.. .. .	12	16	13	19	15	31	12	18	15	10	9	13
(d) Miscellaneous	.. .. .	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Source of new applications:—													
(a) Direct application by Doctor	.. .. .	24	21	18	21	15	15	15	12	8	16	15	14
(b) " " Hospital	.. .. .	9	11	6	10	12	13	18	14	15	11	9	12
(c) " " Midwife	.. .. .	40	39	41	47	22	38	36	40	46	33	12	36
(d) " " Householder	.. .. .	14	17	19	23	15	7	24	10	9	13	11	13
(e) " " Welfare Worker	.. .. .	14	13	12	18	7	10	13	3	6	19	14	11
Classification of reasons for help being sought:—													
(a) Old age, infirmity and chronic sickness	.. .. .	46	36	39	45	33	26	50	23	23	47	30	36
(b) Acute sickness and convalescence	.. .. .	13	21	14	17	13	16	16	14	13	8	17	9
(c) Maternity Cases (including miscarriages and discharges from hospital)	.. .. .	42	44	43	57	25	41	40	42	48	37	14	41
(d) Miscellaneous	.. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Number of cases where Helps unnecessary		31	22	18	18	17	16	18	14	11	20	15	13
Number of Households receiving help for first time during period:—													
(a) Part-time	.. .. .	74	68	66	87	55	56	83	47	46	64	55	55
(b) Full-time	.. .. .	19	14	17	20	10	16	15	8	12	21	12	23
Number of hours worked by part-time Helps during the period		19210 ³ / ₄	16634 ³ / ₄	17030 ¹ / ₄	20189 ³ / ₄	16299 ¹ / ₂	16747 ³ / ₄	20366 ¹ / ₂	12696 ¹ / ₄	14935 ¹ / ₂	20304	16048 ¹ / ₄	18127
Number of part-time Helps employed at last day of period		205	203	203	202	202	199	196	194	189	192	188	186
Number of visits paid by Organisers:—													
(a) New Cases	.. .. .	124	121	87	113	96	92	115	81	81	97	87	113
(b) Re-visits	.. .. .	434	430	367	433	408	365	480	353	367	443	433	456
Number of meals by Home Helps (1 week)		1,139	1,117	1,040	1,033	1,020	1,042	932	851	879	834	796	756

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

(1) Administration

This has been the first full year during which the new Mental Health Act has been operative. So far as this department is concerned the advent of the new Act does not seem to have made a great deal of difference or to have raised any great difficulties as yet. This is probably due, to some extent at least, to the fact that the activities of the mental welfare section have been gradually geared to the new conditions existing under the new Act. Close liaison continues to be fostered between the mental welfare officers and the local consultant psychiatrists and general medical practitioners. The arrangement whereby one mental welfare officer continues to be responsible for the mentally subnormal and severely subnormal seems to be satisfactory.

In the introduction to last year's report reference was made to the fact that the number of compulsory admissions between the period November 1st 1960 and May 31st 1961 was practically double the number of patients admitted compulsorily during the corresponding period under the old legislation. The accompanying table shows that since then there has been a "flattening out" of the number of Reading patients admitted compulsorily to hospital and that in fact the total number the compulsory admissions for 1961 are virtually the same as for 1959, which was for last full year under the old legislation.

Compulsory Admissions

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
1958	29	74	103
1959	40	47	87
1960 (1st Jan. to 31st Oct.) – .	16	44	60
1961	22	61	83

It is also of interest to note that the figures for admissions and discharges of Reading patients to psychiatric wards during 1961 show that quite a lot of elderly people were discharged from hospitals for the mentally ill. It is important that these elderly persons should be followed up closely when they return to the community.

The Occupational Therapy Centre for other classes of handicapped persons at Parkhurst is being increasingly used for those mentally ill patients who are not yet fit for work in open employment on discharge from hospital. It provides a very useful means of maintaining and building up morale during a period when the condition of such patients might easily deteriorate if they were left entirely to their own devices and allowed to remain at a loose-end at home.

Towards the end of September we were able to open the Care and Attention Unit referred to in my last Annual Report. This Unit provides for those children who, by virtue of their severe mental and physical handicaps are on the waiting list for permanent hospital admission, or are unable to benefit from the regime provided at the Junior Training Centre. We were fortunate in being able to obtain the lease of the premises at Tilehurst which had been used as the Branch Library, and to make the necessary adaptations at relatively little expense. There is provision for six children at any one time, and at the time of writing this number of children are in fact attending. Mrs. English, who was an assistant Supervisor at Wakefield Lodge, has been appointed Supervisor of this Unit. Several ladies have volunteered to help her during the day with the nursing care involved, and their generous help

is very much appreciated. The parents of the children seem to be glad of the relief provided—even if it is only for a few hours a day.

At the end of the Summer term, Miss M. Barkas, Supervisor to the Training Centres, retired after 32 years service. It is mainly due to her efforts and example that the training centres have attained their present standard of efficiency and good reputation. Following her retirement a separate supervisor was appointed for each centre, Mr. A. H. Allen being appointed supervisor of The Beeches, and Mrs. L. Fade supervisor of Wakefield Lodge.

At the moment it is our policy to admit severely subnormal children to the Junior Training Centre (Wakefield Lodge) at about the age of 5 years unless there is good reason to admit them at an earlier age—the most pressing of which is the request of the parents because of some difficulty.

NUMBER OF READING PATIENTS ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL DURING 1961

	Informal Patients			Compulsory Patients		
	16 and under	17-65	65 and over	16 and under	17-65	65 and over
Male Admissions to Fair Mile Hospital	—	71	23	—	11	11
Female admissions to Fair Mile Hospital	—	150	38	—	51	10
Male admissions to Borocourt Hospital	1	9	—	—	—	—
Female admissions to Borocourt Hospital	1	6	—	—	1	—
Male admissions to Pewsey Hospital	1	—	—	—	—	—
Female admissions to Pewsey Hospital	—	—	—	—	—	—
Male admissions to Aylesbury Hospital	—	—	—	—	—	—
Female admissions to Aylesbury Hospital	1	—	—	—	—	—

Number of Reading Patients discharged from hospital during 1961

Male discharges from Fair Mile Hospital	—	87	15	—	3	—
Female discharges from Fair Mile Hospital	—	152	33	—	18	2
Male discharges from Borocourt Hospital	1	6	—	—	1	—
Female discharges from Borocourt Hosp.	1	4	—	—	1	—
Male discharges from Pewsey Hospital	—	1	—	—	—	—
Female discharges from Pewsey Hospital	—	1	—	—	—	—

Regrading from Informal to Compulsory

				Males			Females		
				16 and under	17-65	65 and over	16 and under	17-65	65 and over
Fair Mile Hospital	—	2	2	—	3	—
Borocourt Hospital	—	—	—	—	—	—

The following table refers to patients under local authority care at 31st December 1961.

NUMBER OF PATIENTS UNDER L.H.A. CARE AT 31.12.61

[illegible]

NUMBER OF PATIENTS REFERRED TO L.H.A. DURING YEAR ENDED 31.12.61

Referred by	Mentally Ill				Psychoopath				Subnormal				Severely S/Norm.				Totals				Grand Total	
	Under 16		16 and over		Under 16		16 and over		Under 16		16 and over		Under 16		16 and over		Under 16		16 and over			
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		
(a) General Practitioners	31	70			1														102	
(b) Hospitals, on discharge from in-patient treatment	51	66			1				5	9									132	
(c) Hospitals, after or during out-patient or day treatment	14	18							1	1	2	4	2			4	2	15	19	40
(d) Local education authorities	...									1	6	7	3	5	3			5	4	6	7	22
(e) Police and courts	8	17			4					1								12	18	30
(f) Other sources	20	45							3	2								23	48	71

Training Centres

(a) Wakefield Lodge Junior Training Centre

Mrs. Fade has contributed the following report on the work carried out at this centre during the year:—

At the end of December 1961, there were 32 children attending the centre, including 6 from Berkshire County Council. During the year 6 children were transferred to The Beeches, 2 very severely handicapped children were transferred to the new Nursing Care and Attention Unit at Tilehurst, and one boy was admitted to the day hospital at Borocourt pending admission to Smith's Hospital.

At December 31st the staff consisted of the following:—1 Supervisor, 4 Assistant Supervisors, 1 Guide Assistant and appropriate domestic staff.

Transport

Arrangements remain unchanged from last year.

Medical and Dental Services

The annual medical inspection was again carried out by the Deputy Medical Officer of Health, and the School Dental Officer continued to give dental treatment as required. A speech therapist has visited weekly to give advice and treatment to those children considered suitable for it.

Meals

These have been supplied by the School Meals Service as before, including $\frac{1}{3}$ pint of milk for each child.

Activities

These have continued along the lines indicated in previous reports. Following a talk by Miss J. Alvin, Hon. Secretary of the Society for Music Therapy and Remedial Music, the staff have been including classes based on the principles of "musical movement". At the moment this project is in the experimental stage at this centre, but the teachers feel that it is helping the children to attain better general muscular co-ordination.

The centre displayed a stall of their handiwork at the Annual Sale of Work given by the Senior Centre on December 6th. The children also performed a Nativity Play on December 16th which was attended by the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, Dr. and Mrs. E. Hughes, and the parents. This event was an innovation and proved a great success. During the year a number of social events were again arranged for the children.

The Centre, in conjunction with the Senior Centre, was represented by a section at the Civics Exhibition which was held in the Art Gallery from February 1st to 4th.

(b) The Beeches Senior Training Centre

Mr. Allen has contributed the following report of the work carried out at this centre during the year:—

At the end of December 1961 there were 47 pupils, from the age of 16 upwards, on the register including 6 from Berkshire County Council.

At December 31st the staff consisted of the following:—1 Supervisor, 2 Assistant Supervisors (female) and 1 part-time boot repairer giving two half-day sessions weekly.

At the time of writing one of the Assistant Supervisors has left and has not yet been replaced; one of the Assistant Supervisors from Wakefield Lodge is helping out on two days a week, but with the increasing number of pupils now attending this centre there is a need for three full-time assistant supervisors in order to achieve the recommended Assistant/pupil ratio of 1:15.

Transport

The same facilities were available as for Wakefield Lodge.

Medical and Dental Services

A routine annual medical inspection was carried out by the Deputy Medical Officer of Health and the School Dental Officer kindly continued to give dental treatment when this was required.

Activities

During the year a review of the work carried out at this Centre was undertaken by the M.O.H., and it may be of interest to include a brief resumé here:—

In 1956 an enquiry was made into the reasons why the senior pupils at the Beeches Training Centre were not attending as regularly as they might. As a result of that enquiry it was decided to initiate a scheme which would provide a greater incentive for them to attend. An initial grant was made by the local authority for the purchase of tools and materials and provision was also made for money to be paid to the pupils for the work carried out. Suitable work had to be found which carried a satisfactory financial reward. Since the scheme's initiation the scope of the work has increased steadily, the pupils also being given weekly merit payments.

Some work, such as gardening and domestic work is done, for limited periods, outside the centre premises. At present this type of work is delegated to four of the more responsible pupils. Other work which is carried out within the centre premises includes the making of concrete blocks, car cleaning, stripping electric motors, wood chopping (fire bundles), making Christmas crackers and assembling stockings, repairing the wicker seats of chairs, needlework, basket making, and domestic science classes. For some of the work, such as wood chopping, a "foreman" is appointed to take charge of the work teams and supervise the work generally. There is no doubt that the pupils enjoy doing this work and they are not usually absent without good reason.

Employment

Two pupils left to take up full-time employment during the year. As mentioned above, four pupils are undertaking work for limited periods outside the centre.

Annual Sale of Work

This sale of work took place at St. John's Hall on December 6th. His Worship the Mayor, accompanied by the Mayoress, kindly opened the proceedings, over which the Chairman of the Health Committee presided.

Summer Camp

36 pupils attended the Annual Camp at Dymchurch for 10 days. A party of parents visited the camp and entertained the campers.

On December 23rd, 22 boys and girls with 4 staff in attendance, were privileged to visit the circus at Olympia by kind invitation of Bertram Mills Circus Co.

Students

Three students from N.A.M.H. Courses were received at the Beeches.

Visitors

During the year both Centres were visited by doctors, teachers of backward children and others engaged in welfare work.

Exhibitions

As mentioned in the report for the Junior Training Centre, the work of this Centre was represented at the Civics Exhibition in February.

Beeches Parents' Association

Our thanks are due to this Association for their continued interest in the Centres and for their efforts in raising money for outings and extra equipment.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR, 1961 CLASSIFIED IN ALL AGE GROUPS

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases Notified									
	At All Ages	Age Groups								
		Under 1 year	1 and under 3 years	3 and under 5 years	5 and under 10 years	10 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and over	Unknown
Scarlet Fever ...	57	2	12	28	14	—	1	1	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	46	17	11	11	3	1	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	388	495	743	31	10	4	—	—	—
Measles ...	1721	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia (Primary or Influenzal)	47	3	2	5	1	1	8	11	13	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis (Infective)...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis (Post-Infectious)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	8	—	—	—	—	5	3	—	—	—
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fevers (excluding Paratyphoid)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	18	—	—	—	—	2	9	7	—	—
Erysipelas ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	1	—
Malaria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cholera ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Plague ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhus ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Relapsing Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	44	1	8	14	1	7	5	3	1	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	77	1	—	3	4	16	20	22	9	—
Tuberculosis (Non-Pulmonary)	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
Totals ...	2026	58	416	528	804	54	42	56	44	24
										—

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Diphtheria

For the thirteenth year in succession there has been no case of diphtheria in the Borough.

Scarlet Fever

57 cases of scarlet fever were notified during the year as opposed to 68 cases in 1960. Half the cases were in the 5 to 10 year age groups, the majority of the remainder being almost equally divided between the 3 to 5 year and 10 to 15 age groups.

Whooping Cough

There were 46 cases of this disease notified during the year which is a marked contrast to the number notified (175) in 1960. Of the 46 cases notified three were in infants under 1 year, 17 in the 1 to 3 year age group, 11 in each of the 3 to 5 year and 5 to 10 year age groups, 3 in the 10 to 15 year age group and 1 in the 15 to 25 year age groups.

28 of the notified cases had either not had, or had not completed, a primary course of immunisation; 13 cases had had a primary course, 3 cases had had a booster immunising dose 5 years after the primary course, and 2 cases had had a booster dose one year after the primary course.

No deaths occurred attributable to whooping cough.

Measles

1,721 cases of measles were notified during the year. 743 cases occurred in the 5 to 10 year age group, 495 in the 3 to 5 year group, 388 in the 1 to 3 year group, and 50 in infants under 1 year. The remaining 45 cases were distributed in diminishing frequency between persons of ages 10 years to 45 years. No deaths due to this disease were reported.

Poliomyelitis

As in 1960, no case of poliomyelitis was notified within the Borough this year. The experience of one or two other authorities in regard to poliomyelitis and also because of the diminished availability of Salk vaccine for much of the year which considerably curtailed the immunisation programme against this disease, leads me to feel that it would be premature at this juncture to be too sanguine about the fact that we have not had a case of poliomyelitis notified within the Borough for two years. However, now that oral vaccine has been made available it is to be hoped that the immunisation programme can continue uninterrupted.

Sonne Dysentery

This disease caused us a certain amount of trouble during the year, particularly since an outbreak occurred amongst the children and nursing staff of a residential nursery during May. We were also consulted about a similar outbreak in November amongst the patients in one of the children's wards of the Royal Berkshire Hospital. Both these outbreaks were dealt with successfully on clinical grounds, the cases

showing symptoms being isolated and treated with a suitable antibiotic. The same antibiotic was given prophylactically to the remainder of the children and nursing staff at risk in both instances.

A family outbreak due to the same cause is perhaps worthy of mention. Soon after a farm labourer and his family moved into a cottage which was equipped with a bucket-type latrine, cold water and drinking water being supplied from a well, the father and four of the children became infected with *sonne* dysentery. The whole family was treated with suitable chemotherapy by the general medical practitioner and the father, who handled milk churns in transit from the farm to the dairy, was issued with a formal notice under the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations 1959, requiring him not to handle any equipment to do with the production, distribution and storage of milk until notified that he was able to do so by the Medical Officer of Health. After three negative specimens of faeces were obtained the notice was cancelled. Advice on the general hygiene measures to be adopted in the home was also given and the outbreak subsided. Samples from the well water proved to be satisfactory.

Outbreak of Infantile Diarrhoea associated with B.Coli 0119 and 0111

At the end of November and during December an outbreak of infantile diarrhoea associated with B.Coli 0119 and 0111, occurred in a residential infants' nursery. Apart from the first case none of the other infants affected were seriously ill. The Medical Officer of Health was consulted and general preventive hygiene measures were advised. All infants with symptoms were isolated and treated with suitable antibiotic therapy. Prophylactic antibiotic therapy was given to the rest of the infants at risk and to the attendant nursing staff, including those who were working in the milk kitchen. Admissions to the affected nursery were stopped until the outbreak was under control. It was decided that in future no infant admitted to this nursery and found to be carrying an organism of this type, even if symptom-free, should be allowed to mix with the other infants until the organism concerned had disappeared from the faeces.

Typhoid Fever (Enteric)

We were informed during early December that the organism *Salmonella typhi* had been isolated from a faecal specimen of a public school boy who had been convalescing at his home in Reading from typhoid fever.

During the summer holidays this boy had stayed in Java with his parents and on returning to this country in September he stayed for two days in Reading before going back to his school. On arrival at his school he reported sick and typhoid fever was diagnosed in due course. On recovery in November he returned to Reading for convalescence under the care of his G.P. Subsequent enquiry by our department revealed that he had had diarrhoea and a headache on his arrival in this country in September. During his convalescence faecal specimens were submitted to the laboratory for bacteriological examination. At the same time he visited friends and also spent some time in one of the local science laboratories. By the time we were informed of the positive result in the faecal specimen referred to above this boy had already returned to school again.

The school was notified immediately. All the persons who were still in Reading and had been contacts of this boy during his convalescence, and also during his short stay prior to returning to school in September, were followed up. Fortunately, specimens of urine, stool, and blood were found to be negative in all the contacts. The Ministry of Health was also informed and the information was also passed to those Medical Officers of Health into whose areas some of the Reading contacts had moved by the time we were acquainted with the situation.

Food Poisoning

Various sporadic cases of food-poisoning, due in all cases to one of the *Salmonella* food-poisoning organisms, were investigated during the year. As is the case in the majority of these individual cases, it was not possible to incriminate a food source with certainty in any of these incidents. This was due to the fact that by the time the case came to our attention, it was not possible to obtain any of the suspect food.

Outbreak of Food-poisoning due to *Staphylococcus Aureus* at a factory canteen

On the morning of September 29th, we received a telephone call from the medical officer of the factory concerned to say that he was reporting several cases of suspected food-poisoning that had occurred that same morning and on the previous day. A member of the medical staff visited the factory and canteen almost immediately. He was later assisted by a public health inspector.

Enquiry revealed that on September 28th ten persons had suffered from acute vomiting which was sufficiently severe to require the provision of transport to take them home. The duration of the vomiting varied from two to twelve hours and three cases had diarrhoea which persisted for about two days. A further seven employees became ill with similar symptoms on the 29th. It was discovered that all the affected persons had consumed ham rolls or sandwiches on an average 3 to 4 hours (limits $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours and 6 hours) before the onset of symptoms.

The ham for these rolls and sandwiches had been boiled on September 26th and then left to cool in the stock overnight. The following morning it was skinned and then refrigerated until first sliced on the 28th. The remaining portion of the suspect ham and slices from it on the serving counter were removed to the public health laboratory for bacteriological examination. The canteen staff were examined and several of them had small uncovered lesions on their hands or faces. These lesions were swabbed for bacteriological examination. Swabs were similarly taken from the blade and from various more inaccessible parts of the slicer. Enquiry revealed that it was unlikely that the slicer was actually cleaned more than twice weekly. Specimens of faeces and one specimen of vomit were also collected from the affected persons.

The bacteriological examination of the swabs revealed heavy growths of coagulase positive *staphylococcus aureus* on the slicer and sliced ham and also on the swabs from the lesions on the cook, assistant cook and one canteen helper. Scanty growth of coagulase positive *staphylococci* were grown from the patient's vomit. Though the results were not entirely conclusive, it was considered that the *staphylococci* detected in the sliced and remaining portions of ham, on the slicing machine, and from the lesions on the fingers or faces of the three canteen staff mentioned above were of the same type.

The affected canteen staff were referred to their general medical practitioners and kept off work until subsequent swabbing of their various lesions revealed no further growth of pathogenic *staphylococci*. Advice was given on the need to cover up any lesion of the hands or face which was acquired by members of the canteen staff and also that they should report any lesion that was septic. Advice was also given regarding adequate and regular cleansing of the slicer and also on the preparation and storing of cooked meats. A little later on, this incident was also followed up by a lecture on general food hygiene to the canteen staff by one of the public health inspectors.

Leptospirosis (Canicola fever)

The case of a boy who was taken ill at a local public school at the end of September is of interest in that the initial history and pathological investigations lead him to be suspected as a possible case of enteric fever.

This boy was admitted to the Park Hospital having had pyrexia, headaches and general aches and pains for about five days; he had also had some looseness of the bowels and had vomited once during this period. Nine days prior to the onset of his illness the patient had spent four days on a boating trip down the Thames with a friend, obtaining food and water from shops situated at or near the locks.

Subsequent investigations revealed that in fact the boy was suffering from a form of leptospirosis which is usually contracted by contact with water contaminated with the urine of dogs infected with the condition.

Pending the result of the pathological investigations routine prophylactic measures for enteric fever were taken in respect of the boy's close school contacts, disinfection of his bedding being carried out as well.

TUBERCULOSIS

These remarks should be read in conjunction with those under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act and with any comments made in my report as Principal School Medical Officer. The following table shows the number of deaths due to this disease since 1938:—

TABLE 1

Year	Number of Cases notified		Notification Rate per 100,000 of population		Number of deaths		Death Rate per 1,000 of population		Population
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
1928-37 Average	117	22	—	—	76	15	0.76	0.15	—
1938	91	31	90.63	30.87	58	6	0.58	0.05	100,400
1939	95	40	94.43	39.76	52	12	0.50	0.10	100,600
1940	117	30	102.09	26.18	74	18	0.66	0.16	114,600
1941	137	50	109.77	40.06	68	16	0.54	0.13	124,800
1942	186	40	157.89	33.95	60	10	0.51	0.08	117,800
1943	185	30	163.71	26.54	57	13	0.51	0.11	113,000
1944	135	29	121.25	26.04	55	14	0.49	0.13	111,340
1945	119	16	109.34	14.69	60	12	0.55	0.11	108,830
1946	152	25	135.51	22.49	73	11	0.65	0.09	111,340
1947	168	27	148.72	23.90	70	6	0.62	0.05	112,960
1948	132	24	115.28	20.92	50	12	0.43	0.10	114,500
1949	130	9	112.65	7.80	35	6	0.30	0.05	115,500
1950	143	10	123.52	8.64	39	3	0.34	0.03	115,700
1951	115	3	99.91	2.61	34	—	0.29	0.00	115,100
1952	128	12	110.54	10.36	22	2	0.19	0.02	115,800
1953	96	26	81.56	22.09	20	4	0.17	0.03	117,700
1954	85	5	71.85	4.22	6	2	0.05	0.02	118,300
1955	131	7	110.92	5.92	9	1	0.07	0.01	118,100
1956	109	11	92.45	9.33	9	1	0.07	0.01	117,900
1957	112	15	94.83	12.70	6	1	0.05	0.01	118,100
1958	107	8	90.75	6.79	8	—	0.07	—	117,900
1959	73	6	61.76	5.08	7	1	0.06	0.01	118,200
1960	68	7	57.57	5.93	7	—	0.06	—	118,110
1961	77	3	63.62	2.48	4	—	0.03	—	121,040

Once again I wish to thank Dr. Karlsh, the Consultant Chest Physician, for the very great help he has given me in connection with tuberculosis and diseases of the chest. I am indebted to him for most of the information which appears in the following pages of this report.

TABLE II

Source and Type of new cases of tuberculous infection first seen in 1961

	M.M.R.	Contact	Odelca Clinic	Doctors' Cases	Hospitals	Other Sources	Totals
Respiratory Tuberculosis							
<i>Primary Tuberculosis:</i>							
Positive	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Negative	—	12	3	—	2	—	17
Apparently healed	1	3	4	—	—	2	10
Tuberculin Conversion in Juveniles:	—	9	4	—	—	51	64
<i>Tub. Pleural Effusion:</i>							
Positive	—	—	1	—	2	1	4
Negative	—	—	1	—	—	1	2
<i>Pulmonary Tuberculosis:</i>							
Positive	7	3	19	4	11	2	46
Negative	4	3	5	2	2	1	17
P.T. Arrested	4	6	23	6	6	1	46
Observation	2	—	7	1	4	—	14
Total Respiratory Tuberculosis:	18	37	67	13	27	59	221
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis: ...	—	—	1	1	1	—	3
Total Tuberculous Cases:	18	37	68	14	28	59	224

It is a matter of some concern that newly notified respiratory cases have gone up from 67 in 1960 to 78 in 1961, and that a higher proportion were sputum positive cases (65%).

Contacts

Five hundred and ninety-six new contacts were examined, compared with 249 in 1960. Thirteen new notifications resulted.

Discharges from the Tuberculosis Register

Notified cases only:—

Recovered	29
Died (all causes)	24
Transferred	57
Other	39
	—
Total:	149
	—

Diseases other than Tuberculosis

Eight hundred and fifty-nine new non-tuberculous patients were seen in 1961, compared with 878 in 1960 and 491 in 1950.

TABLE III
Diagnoses of Non-Tuberculous Cases
First Seen in 1961

Asthma	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Pneumonias	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	112
Acute respiratory infection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	128
Chronic bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	238
Bronchiectasis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Unexplained haemoptysis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Metastatic carcinoma of lung	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Bronchial carcinoma	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Pleurisy (non-tuberculous)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Spontaneous pneumothorax	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Sarcoidosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Anxiety	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Other lung conditions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Cardiac disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
*Duodenal ulcer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Anæmia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diagnosis not completed by December 31st, 1961	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Other diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
No organic disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	101
Observation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Total									859

* The 16 cases of duodenal ulcer seen at the clinic were specially referred from the surgical department as part of a research project.

The Clinic Register of Notified Cases of Tuberculosis

Under supervision at 1.1.61	.	.	.	.	1,188
Admitted during the year	.	.	.	.	121
Discharged, died, etc.	.	.	.	.	149
Remaining under supervision on 31.12.61	.	.	.	.	1,160

Care and After-Care

Reference to this important subject will be found in my remarks on our work under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act.

Venereal Disease

Our arrangements with the Royal Berkshire Hospital whereby the nursing orderly attached to the Clinic carries out follow-up visits on behalf of the Local Authority continued successfully throughout the year. His efforts have ensured that a number of defaulters have been persuaded to resume treatment.

The following are details of patients from Reading who attended for the first time in 1961:—

Syphilis	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	18
Gonorrhoea	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	69
Other Conditions	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	145

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water

Last year I referred to the fact that the Water Undertaking of the Corporation of Reading had been incorporated in the new Thames Valley Water Board.

Mr. O. Kean, M.I.C.E., M.I.Mech.E., M.I.W.E., continued as Water Engineer and he has been good enough to supply the information which is given below.

To my great personal regret, Mr. Kean retired from his post on March 31st, 1962, on reaching the age limit, thus ending a happy association which extended over many years. I would like to express to him my great appreciation of the help and co-operation which he and his department have always given to us and to wish him a happy retirement. Mr. Archer was promoted to take Mr. Kean's place, and I am sure that the same standard of co-operation will continue under his jurisdiction.

The chemical and bacteriological examination of the water supplied within the statutory area was continued during the year in the Board's Laboratory at the Central Depot, Berkeley Avenue.

Samples are collected at regular intervals from the raw water sources, from final waters leaving the works, from water stored in reservoirs and towers, and from the distribution system.

The Borough of Reading continues to be supplied with water from the river Kennet and wells and boreholes at Pangbourne and throughout the year has had ample supplies of water of satisfactory quality.

The well supply, clear and bright in appearance and of a high standard of organic and bacterial purity, requires only precautionary chlorination in the way of treatment. In contrast, the river supply is greatly affected by rainfall, seasonal conditions, and requires treatment by carefully controlled filtration and chlorination to yield a pure and wholesome final water.

The following are submitted as being typical of reports made on the raw and final waters from the two sources of supply to the Reading area.

RIVER KENNET SOURCE

(Results expressed in parts per million where appropriate)

	Raw Water					Final Water
Appearance	Fairly clear for this source, with little colour, and a small amount of suspended matter.					Clear and bright
Colour (Hazen)	Filtered: 7					Less than 5
Turbidity (Silica Scale)	12	...	...	...	...	Nil
Odour	Nil	...	...	...	...	Nil
pH.	8.1	...	...	...	...	7.6
Chlorides	12.5	...	...	...	...	14.0
Hardness: Total as CaCO ₃	250	...	...	...	...	245
" Carbonate (Temporary)	215	...	...	...	...	210
" Non-Carbonate (Permanent)	35	...	...	...	...	35
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N)	0.025	...	...	...	...	0.000
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N)	0.155	...	...	...	...	0.050
Nitrite Nitrogen (N)	Less than 0.01					Absent
Nitrate Nitrogen (N)	3.0	...	...	...	...	3.0
Iron	0.14	...	...	...	...	Less than 0.02
Other Metals	Absent					Absent
Free Carbon Dioxide	Trace					5
Total Dissolved Solids (dried at 180°C)	295	...	...	...	...	290
Alkalinity	215	...	...	...	...	210
Oxygen Absorbed (4 hours at 27°C)	1.40	...	...	...	...	0.45
Residual Chlorine ... ..	—	...	...	...	...	0.5
Fluoride ... ..	—	...	...	...	...	Less than 0.1
<i>Bacteriological Results—</i>						
No. of colonies developing per ml. on Agar in:—						
1 day at 37°C	4500	...	...	...	...	14
2 days at 37°C	7000	...	...	...	...	20
3 days at 22°C	18000	...	...	...	...	12
<i>Presumptive Coliform Reaction—</i>						
Present in	0.01 mls.					—
Absent from	0.001 mls.					100 mls.
Probable No. per 100 mls.	8000	...	...	...	...	0
<i>Bact. Coli (Type I)—</i>						
Present in	0.1 mls.					—
Absent from	0.01 mls.					100 mls.
Probable No. per 100 mls.	1100	...	...	...	...	0

PANGBOURNE WELLS & BOREHOLES SOURCE

	Raw Water					Final Water
Appearance	Clear and bright					Clear and bright
Colour (Hazen)	Nil					Nil
Turbidity (Silica Scale)	Nil					Nil
Odour	Nil					Faint, chlorin- ous
pH.	7.0					7.0
Chloride	13.0					13.0
Hardness: Total as CaCO ₃	290					290
,, Carbonate (Temporary)	250					250
,, Non-Carbonate (Permanent)	40					40
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N)	0.000					0.000
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N)	0.005					0.000
Nitrite Nitrogen (N)	Absent					Absent
Nitrate Nitrogen (N)	5.1					5.1
Iron	Nil					Nil
Other Metals	Absent					Absent
Free Carbon Dioxide	37					37
Total Dissolved Solids (dried at 180°C)	345					345
Alkalinity	250					250
Oxygen Absorbed (4 hours at 27°C)	0.05					0.00
Residual Chlorine	—					0.3
Fluoride	Less than 0.1					Less than 0.1
<i>Bacteriological Results—</i>						
No. of colonies developing per ml. on Agar in:—						
1 day at 37°C	0					0
2 days at 37°C	1					0
3 days at 22°C	1					1
<i>Presumptive Coliform Reaction—</i>						
Present in	—					—
Absent from	100 mls.					100 mls.
<i>Bact. Coli (Type I)—</i>						
Present in	—					—
Absent from	100 mls.					100 mls.

The yield from these sources is such that it has been possible to assist the demand in the Wokingham Rural District via a new trunk main link with the Wokingham mains at Earley. Smaller links have also been made around the perimeter of the old Reading area and in consequence it is no longer possible to give details of the quantity of water supplied solely in the area of the former Reading Corporation Water Undertaking.

The number of houses in the Borough, together with other premises having domestic occupation, supplied, increased by 558 to 36,401 during the year to March 31st, 1961. The supply to 5 of these properties was by means of standpipes. My records show that there are 16 houses within the Borough supplied from wells and taking no supply from the Board's mains.

The average daily consumption of water per head of population throughout the whole of the Board's area in the year ended March 31st, 1961 was 38.12 gallons for domestic and 15.94 gallons for non-domestic use, a total of 54.06 gallons per head.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. J. Green, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Chief Public Health Inspector, reports as follows:—

1961 was the first year of the revised Slum Clearance programme and the year's work went according to plan.

Now that the very worst houses have, in the main, been cleared, it is intended, where possible, to deal with unfit properties in such a way as to permit scope for redevelopment. It is also proposed, if the staff is available, to review the programme annually so as to maintain it on a 5-year basis and perhaps extend it beyond five years. This will be of considerable help in planning for the future.

The work on houses let-in-lodgings continued during the year under review—on a restricted scale, however, due to staff changes. The proposed improvements in housing legislation in connection with this matter were introduced towards the end of the year and it will be interesting to see how these affect the lodgings situation. Housing repair work was maintained and a limited number of house-to-house inspections were carried out during the year by the District Inspectors.

The Corporation Abattoirs are now on lease and have virtually become a private slaughterhouse, although the facilities required of the Corporation by the Slaughterhouses Acts, are maintained. Through-put again increased during 1961, resulting in still another record figure. Fortunately we were able to fill the vacant Meat Inspector's post in the establishment and avoid further demands being made on the time of District and other Public Health Inspectors for meat inspection work.

With regard to atmospheric pollution, it will be interesting to see the results of the national survey on pollution levels being undertaken by the hundred selected local authorities in collaboration with the Department of Scientific & Industrial Research and the special detailed surveys being carried out in Edinburgh, Sheffield and Reading. Investigation in the Reading area, which involves over 30 stations in and around the Borough, is being undertaken by the Reading University's Geography Department in collaboration with the Department of Scientific & Industrial Research, and with some assistance from this department.

Although there were several changes during the year, the staff position has been maintained reasonably well—much however remains to be done. Once again, I extend my very best thanks to all members of the staff for their continued support throughout the year.

1 HOUSING

The Housing Act, 1961, came into operation in October. The main conditions affecting this department are those relating to houses in multiple occupation. The Minister promised sometime ago that new powers would be made available to local authorities to enable them to deal with this problem more effectively. The main effect of the new Act so far as houses let in lodgings are concerned, is that in addition to the local authority being empowered to do works of repair and improvement in default, the local authority may apply a management code to such houses. This will make the owner or principal tenant responsible for the good maintenance of the property from the point of view of repairs, maintenance and general cleanliness of main passages, staircases, etc.—the responsibility for some of these items has been obscure to a certain extent in the past. No standards have been laid down for overcrowding. This will have to be decided in the light of local circumstances and the particulars of each individual case. Whereas, in the past, the local authority has had to state whether or not the house is overcrowded and then to take enforcement

action accordingly, Section 19 enables us to serve notice on the people responsible where excessive numbers exist in a house, requiring them, when individuals cease to reside there, not to permit any others to take up residence if the permitted number will be exceeded. This avoids the difficult position of owners or persons in control giving lodgers notice to quit and a possible burden being placed on the local authority in being required to make some kind of arrangement by way of rehousing.

As, in a fair proportion of cases of houses let in lodgings, the business is for profit, the fact that penalties for infringement of this part of the Act have been very considerably increased will strengthen the hand of local authorities.

One of the difficulties brought about by the Housing Act, 1954, was that it repealed previous powers of the local authority to require registration of these establishments. The new Act makes provision to enable local authorities to introduce registration after a period of three years from the coming into operation of the Act and where local circumstances allow and the Minister agrees. The crux of the whole problem, however, is the fact that there is insufficient suitable living accommodation available for all those who wish to reside in Reading, and if the new powers are to be enforced as effectively as possible and without imposing too great a hardship, consideration will have to be given to rehousing by the local authority in some cases.

Slum Clearance

During 1961, 132 houses were represented as unfit. Of these, 81 were included in Clearance Areas, 12 were dealt with individually and 39, owned by the local authority, were certified unfit.

This year, the new Slum Clearance programme was commenced. With one exception, all the Clearance Areas represented were in the Hosier Street area which is zoned for future redevelopment and the representation of unfit houses within this area is now almost complete. The one exception was a Clearance Area involving all the remaining properties adjoining the previously cleared Somerstown area which is also destined for early redevelopment.

The general pattern of the first five-year Slum Clearance programme was in the form of a cleaning-up operation and a lot of the Clearance Areas dealt with were small and widely scattered. This was unavoidable as the houses were in very bad condition and action was long overdue. With this operation largely completed the pattern of the new programme, and indeed, any future programmes, will be rather different. As indicated by this year's representations, it is now possible to devote some part of the programme to the clearance of closely related or larger areas with a view to facilitating future redevelopment.

As stated in previous years, deterioration in houses in certain parts of the town is a continuing process whereby additional numbers of these houses become unfit from time to time. In order to accommodate this state of affairs, it is intended to review the Slum Clearance programme annually with a view to including any additional houses which may have subsequently become unfit and candidates for early Slum Clearance action. During 1961, 193 such houses were added to the existing programme of 649 and the programme was extended by one year. The amended Slum Clearance programme, approved by the Minister of Housing & Local Government, now comprises 842 houses, to be dealt with during the period 1961-1966.

Clearance Areas

Representations were made in respect of the following Clearance Areas during the year:—

Clearance Area No. 1/61 (Lavender Street & Soho Street)—15 houses

Clearance Area No. 2/61 (Soho Street, Howard Street & Hosier Street)—
31 houses

Clearance Area No. 3/61 (Soho Street)—9 houses

Clearance Area No. 4/61 (Soho Street)—2 houses

Clearance Area No. 5/61 (Soho Street)—4 houses

Clearance Area No. 6/61 (Rose Hill Cottages, Tilehurst Road and
Bartletts Place)—20 houses

All the Areas were subsequently included in Compulsory Purchase Orders.

The Compulsory Purchase Orders made during 1960 in respect of Clearance Areas No. 1/60 (Hosier Street) and No. 8/60 (Rupert Court), and the Clearance Order made during 1960 in respect of Clearance Area No. 6/60 (Kennet Side), were confirmed by the Minister of Housing & Local Government during 1961.

An objection was lodged against the Compulsory Purchase Order made at the beginning of 1961 in respect of Clearance Area No. 9/60 (Garrard Street) and a Public Local Inquiry was held. Later in the year the Order was, however, confirmed by the Minister of Housing & Local Government, without modification.

The undermentioned 44 houses, included in Clearance Areas, were demolished during the year:—

Nos. 10-24, Bembridge Place—Clearance Area No. 5/60 (Bembridge Place) Clearance Order, 1960.

Nos. 1-15, Grape Passage—Clearance Area No. 2/58 (Grape Passage) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1958.

Nos. 1-7, Hope Street—Part of Clearance Area No. 4/59 (Lavender Street & Hope Street) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1959.

Nos. 12-24, Kennet Side—Clearance Area No. 6/60 (Kennet Side) Clearance Order, 1960.

Nos. 5-27, Kennet Street—Clearance Area No. 7/60 (Kennet Street) Clearance Order, 1960.

Nos. 2-12, York Terrace—Clearance Area No. 3/58 (York Terrace) Clearance Order, 1958.

Individual Unfit Houses

The undermentioned houses were represented during the year, by the Medical Officer of Health, as being unfit for human habitation and not capable of repair at reasonable expense:—

16 Alfred Street; 84 & 91 Castle Street; 43 Chapel Hill; 1 Coley Place; 36 Gosbrook Road; 61 & 65 Hosier Street; 25 Small Mead Cottages; 54 Southampton Street; 13 & 15 Sun Street.

Demolition Orders were made in respect of Nos. 16 Alfred Street, 1 Coley Place, 25 Small Mead Cottages, 54 Southampton Street, and 13 & 15 Sun Street. Closing Orders were made in respect of the remainder.

The following houses, owned by the local authority, were certified unfit:—

35 Bartletts Cottages; 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22 & 54 Katesgrove Lane; 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65 & 67 Katesgrove Lane; 3 & 6 Spring Grove; 34 Surley Row; 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14 & 16 Watlington Street; 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9 & 12 Wine Place.

The undermentioned 40 houses, previously made subject to Closing or Demolition Orders, or certified unfit, were demolished during the year:—

30 & 32 Armour Hill; 1-12 Beaconsfield Buildings; 1-17 Blagrove Cottages; 1-5 Grove Road; 41 & 43 Hosier Street; 36-40 Kennet Side; 5 & 7 Peppard Road; 25 Small Mead Cottages; 68 Soho Street; 34 Surley Row; 3-9 Wine Place.

The Closing Order made during 1955 in respect of No. 87, Addington Road, was revoked, the house having been made fit for human habitation by the execution of extensive repairs and improvement by the owner.

Houses Let-in-Lodgings

159 visits to houses let in lodgings were made during 1961, in connection with improvement of conditions. In quite a number of premises conditions were found to be fairly satisfactory, and in 18 cases, informal or formal notices served previously under Sections 36 & 90 of the Housing Act, 1957, were found to have been complied with.

Where conditions were found to be unsatisfactory, a good deal of improvement was achieved by discussion with the person in control, often resulting in appropriate adjustment or rearrangement of the lettings, but in 14 cases it was necessary to serve notices mostly informal, in regard to either permitted numbers or facilities. By the end of the year, 5 of these notices had been complied with.

During the latter part of the year it was possible to proceed further with survey work which resulted in an additional 90 houses let in lodgings being discovered. Since the commencement of action under the Housing Act, 1957, some 200 houses let in lodgings have so far been discovered, but this is by no means the total number of such premises in the town. Unfortunately these premises can only be discovered as a result of complaints received or by a house-to-house survey, which is a time consuming process and can only be undertaken as other duties permit.

Certificates of Disrepair

During 1961, 9 applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received, compared with 17 in 1960 and 42 in 1959, all of which were granted, 4 in respect of all the items specified by the tenants, and 5 in respect of some of the defects.

Following the Local Authority's notice of intention to issue Certificates of Disrepair, undertakings were received from landlords in 5 instances, and in one instance from a house inspected in 1960, and the Certificates were not therefore issued.

Two applications were received for Certificates as to the remedying of defects by the landlord. In both cases the Certificate was granted.

Repair of Houses

Many of the complaints received by the Department were in respect of housing defects. The number is approximately the same as last year. Some 303 dwelling-houses were inspected during the year following complaints; 133 preliminary notices were served and many letters sent. It was necessary to serve statutory notices in 106 cases. There were 1,547 inspections for the purpose of supervising works in progress, interviewing owners and builders, and generally securing compliance with the notices served. Two hundred and sixty-eight houses were made fit during the year by owners.

Improvement Grants and Mortgages

Mention has been made in an earlier paragraph of the work that has been done in connection with our extended Slum Clearance survey. The information obtained is proving to be of considerable value, both in connection with improvement grants and applications the Corporation receive for mortgages. During the year, we dealt with some 282 enquiries relating to improvement grants, and 640 enquiries relating to mortgages. In addition to these requests, which came from other departments of the Corporation, we dealt with many hundreds of enquiries from Solicitors, Property Agents and individuals on housing matters.

Information re Local Land Charges, etc.

Information relating to dwellinghouses as regards outstanding notices and their position with respect to slum clearance was supplied in many cases upon request for official search of the Land Charges Register—some 2,784 forms were dealt with during the year.

Overcrowding

Last year, because of the inadequacy of the statutory standard for overcrowding, the Housing Committee adopted their own standard, as follows:—

“A house shall be deemed to be overcrowded if two persons of different sexes, who are over the age of 10 and are not living together as husband and wife, sleep in the same room,

or

where bedrooms exceed the following degrees of occupation:—

(a)	110 sq.ft. or more	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
(b)	90-110 sq.ft.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1½
(c)	70-90 sq.ft.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
(d)	50-70 sq.ft. (i.e. one child under 10)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	½
(e)	Under 50 sq.ft.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Nil

In dealing with these numbers, no account shall be taken of a child under one year old. A house is automatically overcrowded if a living room is used for sleeping purposes”.

The considerable extent to which the Housing Act standard failed to meet present-day conditions is reflected in the comparatively small proportion of cases that have had to be reported as overcrowded under the new standards. The present standard has, however, been of considerable help in bringing forward really deserving cases which, under the old standards, were not overcrowded.

Many complaints of overcrowding were investigated and appropriate recommendations made to the Housing Department.

A Summary of Housing Repair Work under the Housing and Public Health Acts

Number of Inspections for the purpose of the Housing Consolidated Regulations	232
Number of general inspections	3,037
Number of Preliminary Notices served	133
Number of Preliminary Notices complied with	161
Number of Statutory Notices served under the Public Health Act	106
Number of Statutory Notices (Public Health Act) complied with by owners	101
Number of Houses made fit	268

2 FOOD ADMINISTRATION

A considerable proportion of the Inspectors' time is concerned with food inspections, the conditions under which food is stored, prepared and sold, and the registration and licensing under the various Acts and Orders. These matters are dealt with under the usual sub-headings as follows:—

- (a) Slaughterhouses and Inspection of Meat
- (b) Unwholesome Food Condemned
- (c) Milk
- (d) Food Handling
- (e) Sampling, Food and Drugs Act, 1955

(a) *SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND INSPECTION OF MEAT*

It was stated last year that the Appointed Day when all slaughterhouses in the town were required to comply with the Slaughterhouses Construction (Hygiene) Regulations and the Slaughterhouses Construction (Cruelty to Animals) Regulations, was January 1st, 1962. Unfortunately, owing to the early onset of Winter conditions, heavy slaughtering at the Abattoirs and other factors, it was not possible to complete all the improvements necessary at the Abattoirs by that time. Application therefore was made to the Minister for an extension and the revised date is now April 1st, 1962.

During the year, the Abattoirs were taken over on lease by the firm of Slaughtering Contractors, so that the premises are now virtually a private slaughterhouse although one of the terms of user is that slaughtering facilities to meet the requirements of the population in the area shall be available. A considerable proportion of the throughput at Reading Abattoirs is for distribution beyond the normal boundaries of Reading and district and it is important that local interests should be safeguarded in this respect.

Since the changeover at the Abattoirs, improvements have been undertaken and put into effect. In the cooling rooms on the cattle side low-temperature cooling and storage facilities are now available. The old direct method of cooling was found to be inadequate and modern equipment has now been installed. Considerable improvements in the refrigeration on the smalls side are also being undertaken.

Yard surfaces are in the process of being relaid, staff changing facilities are being provided, and lighting has been brought up to modern standards—this being part of the improvements carried out by the Corporation.

It is anticipated that there will be three slaughtering centres in the town on the Appointed Day—Reading Abattoirs, a large bacon factory, and a small pork and bacon establishment in the Newtown area. The slaughtering position in Reading, therefore, should be quite adequate and satisfactory.

Meat for Export

Export of meat to the Continent has been on a very reduced scale although, as previously stated, a fair proportion of meat from the Abattoirs has been sent beyond the Reading and district boundaries, mainly to London, the South-East and markets in the West. It remains to be seen what demands will arise if the Common Market proposals reach fruition. The export potential is established in Reading and the standard of premises, slaughtering, dressing and inspection should be quite adequate.

Casualty Animals

The figures for animals sent in for emergency slaughter because of injury or illness, were similar to those for last year, although there was a fair increase in the number of sheep. Details are given below. It was mentioned last year that several pigs which had been sent in for emergency slaughter were found to be badly mauled and savaged by dogs. Proceedings were taken against the owner for causing unnecessary suffering, and following conviction, fines were imposed by the Court.

Cows 127; Heifers and Steers 7; Bull 1; Sheep 135; Calves 13; Pigs 218.

It is pleasing to be able to record the co-operation that has been received from veterinary officers in the area, particularly with regard to casualties sent in from time to time. It is essential that as much information as possible should be made available in connection with these cases so that a fair judgment can be given.

It was necessary, on a number of occasions, to submit specimens for laboratory examination, to assist in making judgment on carcasses, and I would once again like to pay tribute to the advice received from Mr. R. M. Loosmore, the Veterinary Investigation Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, who is always helpful in these matters.

Meat Inspection

The number of units inspected by the Meat Inspectors in the town during the year again shows a record figure, there being 86,597 as against 76,330 in 1960. This is an increase of approximately 12½%. The figures for all animals, except cows, were up on last year with marked increases in sheep, lambs and pigs. We had our usual proportion from Ireland which accounted for the bulk of the condemnations usual proportion of cattle from Ireland which accounted for the bulk of the condemnations for Tuberculosis. Meat inspection details are referred to in succeeding paragraphs and the amount of meat slaughtered and inspected is illustrated in graphic form on page 89. The meat inspection arrangements worked fairly satisfactorily again this year, despite the fact that it was required to continue on Saturdays and Sundays. This service is, however, very dependent upon the availability of suitably qualified staff in sufficient numbers. All suitably qualified Inspectors on the staff assisted in this work from time to time and undertook overtime meat inspection on a roster basis.

Ministry Grants for Meat Inspection

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food continued the scheme for reimbursing those authorities who have an unduly heavy burden of meat inspection. The reimbursement figure for Reading for the financial year 1960/61 was approximately £1,925, which represents approximately 50% of the value of meat inspection work done over and above that required for the needs of the County Borough. The total value of this work therefore is very considerable, bearing in mind the population of the town. It is understood that discussions are going on at the present time with the Ministry, the trade and other interested parties, concerning alternative means of reimbursing local authorities the cost of meat inspection. Information at the moment points towards the possibility of it being a direct charge to the trade. There are very strong arguments for this, of course. On the other hand, there are some who argue that this is a health service and it ought not to be re-charged in this way.

Tuberculosis

Whilst, so far as bovine animals from this part of the country are concerned, figures for Tuberculosis are academic, it has been considered to be of sufficient interest,

because of imported cattle, to continue the Tuberculosis statistics again this year. It would seem that the Tuberculosis Eradication Scheme in this country is now having its full effect. It is expected that the odd case will arise from time to time and which may be sent in to the Abattoirs for action under the Tuberculosis Order. Reading is the centre for the slaughter of these cases over a fairly wide area. It will be noted from the figures below that the only significant change in the incidence of Tuberculosis among various types of animals, is in the figure for cattle (excluding cows), and this is only from 0.898% to 1.74%. In this connection it is interesting to record that among those were 316 infected Irish cattle out of a total of 4,285 of Irish origin that were sent to the Abattoirs for slaughter. The Irish imports might be a little higher than the figure given as it is found that some animals change hands a number of times before being sent in for slaughter, but the proportion of these animals is certainly small. The percentage of Tuberculosis incidence in the Irish cattle slaughtered at the Abattoir therefore was 7.37% approx.

Year	Cattle (excluding cows)		Cows		Calves		Pigs	
	Kill	% affected	Kill	% affected	Kill	% affected	Kill	% affected
1948	3,687	12.04	1,631	49.85	4,297	—	10,235	3.89
1953	23,733	5.52	2,969	23.95	7,586	—	38,949	1.16
1954	22,398	6.47	3,231	18.67	11,185	0.0045	50,180	1.31
1955	9,300	4.45	11,857	15.74	16,396	0.24	69,499	0.72
1956	12,873	3.58	18,350	20.39	23,736	0.06	57,885	0.76
1957	15,936	3.28	17,864	18.04	20,659	0.009	57,316	0.51
1958	11,284	3.34	23,971	10.92	13,253	0.015	57,452	0.33
1959	12,271	0.44	13,316	2.64	14,863	0.013	65,797	0.17
1960	13,812	0.898	13,988	0.114	23,073	—	62,089	0.098
1961	19,842	1.74	11,617	0.15	23,077	0.002	70,071	0.15

Cysticercus Bovis

The number of carcasses found to be affected with *Cysticercus Bovis*, either viable or resolved, during the year, was 22 compared with 13 last year. There were no generalised cases. In 11 of these cases, carcasses were refrigerated as recommended in Memo 3 Meat before being passed as fit for human consumption. In the other cases, where not more than one degenerate cyst was found, offals were condemned and, after jointing and no evidence of viable infestation, the meat was released. Low-temperature refrigeration facilities have been considerably improved over the last twelve months and we have now seven centres where meat can be refrigerated in accordance with the regulations relating to *Cysticercus Bovis*.

In addition to the cases of *Cysticercus Bovis* found locally, a number of infected carcasses were sent in from local authorities outside for refrigeration for the prescribed period. We are notified by the Public Health Inspector for the appropriate authority of the time and place at which the carcase will be treated and we arrange for surveillance of the carcase. A clearance certificate is issued when treatment is complete.

Diseases of Animals Acts, 1894 to 1950

Public Health Inspectors qualified in meat inspection, are appointed as authorised officers for the purposes of the Diseases of Animals Acts and are responsible for ensuring the proper disposal of diseased carcasses and for the disinfection of infected premises. It is pleasing to report that there were no cases to be dealt with during the year under review.

Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933-58

A total of 34 licences to slaughter animals under the provisions of the above Acts were issued during the year. Both the captive bolt pistol and the electric lethaler

are used at the Abattoirs and other slaughterhouses and no infringements of the Acts were reported. A number of conditional licences were issued during the year. This procedure has been adopted with people newly coming into this trade and permits them to work under the supervision of a fully-licensed slaughterman. After a probationary period, they then come forward for a full licence which they are granted after they have satisfied practical and theoretical tests. We have found the conditional licence to be a most useful innovation; it ensures that the learner is subject to supervision by properly trained men for a time, and the effect of his having to undergo an examination, elementary though it may be, requires him to learn something about the legislation he is expected to observe, the principles behind good slaughtering methods, and his responsibilities towards food hygiene and safe food.

Condemned Meat

Condemned meat is now disposed of in accordance with the Meat (Staining & Sterilisation) Regulations, 1960. This has increased the measure of control over condemned material. The complete answer, of course, is the treatment of meat condemned in suitable plant installed at the slaughterhouses themselves. We have one such plant attached to the bacon factory. It reduces the handling of infected material and affords the best possible practical means of control.

Some 70 $\frac{1}{4}$ tons of meat were condemned during the year at the Abattoirs and other slaughterhouses. The table below sets out the number of carcasses inspected, together with the details of condemnations, and is in the form required by the Ministry.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	19,842	11,617	23,077	58,605	70,071	Nil
Number inspected	19,842	11,617	23,077	58,605	70,071	Nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cystercerci. Whole carcasses con- demned	8	107	139	86	129	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	5,924	6,495	74	2,965	10,356	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cystercerci ...	29.90	56.83	0.92	5.21	14.97	Nil
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	10	—	—	1	—	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	336	17	—	—	105	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	1.74	0.15	—	0.002	0.15	Nil
<i>Cysticercosis:</i>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	21	1	—	—	—	Nil
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	10	1	—	—	—	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	Nil

Diseased Meat and Offals

The following tables give details of the meat and offals found during the year to be diseased, unsound or unfit for human consumption.

Whole Carcases

	Heifers & Steers	Cows	Bulls	Calves	Pigs	Boars & Sows	Sheep
Tuberculosis . . .	10	—	—	—	—	—	1
Actinomycosis . . .	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Bruising and Injuries . . .	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Dead in lairage . . .	—	—	—	6	8	—	4
Echinococcosis (Cysts) . . .	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas, Acute Swine . . .	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Gangrene . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Ill-bled . . .	—	—	—	7	—	—	—
Immaturity . . .	—	—	—	1	47	—	—
Joint-ill . . .	—	—	—	13	—	—	—
Lymphatic Leukaemia . . .	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm . . .	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Oedema and/or Emaciation . . .	3	71	2	75	5	3	74
Polyarthrititis . . .	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Pyæmia . . .	—	2	—	4	34	3	3
Pyrexia . . .	—	6	—	20	8	2	2
All Septicaemia conditions . . .	2	21	—	13	15	1	1
	16	107	2	139	120	9	86

Part Carcases

	Heifers and Steers	Cows	Bulls	Calves	Pigs	Boars and Sows	Sheep
Tuberculosis . . .	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arthritis . . .	—	—	—	—	9	—	—
Bruising and/or Injuries . . .	—	7	—	—	3	—	5
Abscess (localised) . . .	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
	6	7	—	—	14	—	5

Organs, etc.

Heads and Tongues

Tuberculosis	258
Abcess	48
Actinomycosis	64
Cysticercus Bovis	25
Injuries	1

Livers

Tuberculosis	44
Abcess	243
Angioma	1,108
Cirrhosis	2,010
Echinococcosis (Cysts)	15
Fatty Degeneration	68
Distomatosis	10,735
Milkspot	2,439
Necrosis	292

Part Livers

Distomatosis	801
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Skirts

Peritonitis	2
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Udders

Tuberculosis	1
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Lungs

Tuberculosis	284
Abcess	14
Congestion	1,347
Echinococcosis (cysts)	17
Distomatosis	358
Emphysema	1
Parasites	81
Pleurisy	2,015
Pneumonia	2,627

Stomachs

Tuberculosis	1
Peritonitis	173

Hearts

Pericarditis	2,082
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Kidneys

Cysts	501
Nephritis	953

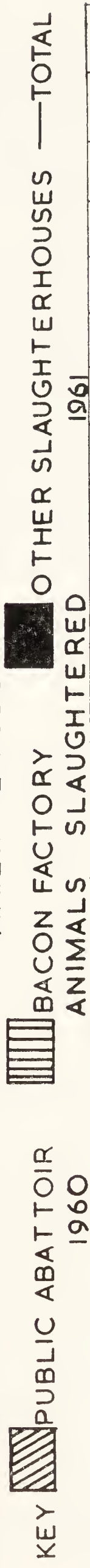
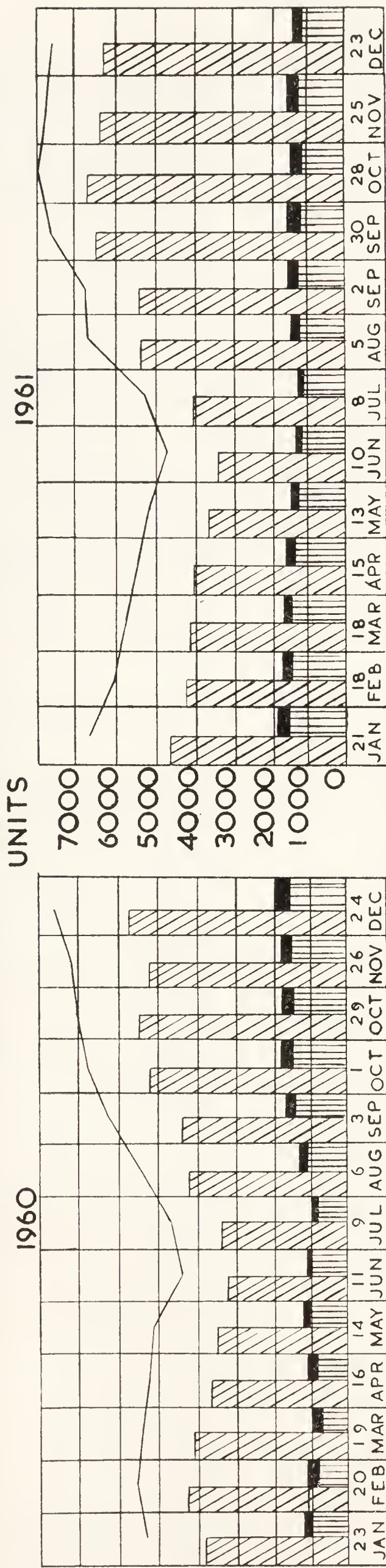
Intestines

Tuberculosis	1
Peritonitis	199

Transport of Meat

Fairly frequent inspections were made by Inspectors at the slaughterhouses and as meat was being delivered to shops in the town, and a reasonably satisfactory standard was being maintained. The tendency is for greater quantities of meat to be conveyed in modern refrigerated vehicles, although the small family butcher still likes to retain his own transport. A number of minor infringements were dealt with informally.

MEAT INSPECTION



Knacker's Yard

There is one Knacker's Yard in the Borough which is subject to annual licensing by the Council. These premises were reconstructed during 1955 and are of a good standard. The register kept in accordance with the Knacker's Yard Orders shows that 128 bovine and 21 equine cases were dealt with on the premises during the year. No complaints were received in respect of this establishment and it was carried on satisfactorily during the year. The public health inspectors made 35 visits to the premises during 1961.

(b) UNWHOLESOME FOOD CONDEMNED

Some 440 visits were paid to food establishments during the year for the purpose of inspecting foodstuffs and condemning that which was unfit for human consumption. Approximately 19 tons of food were condemned and 1,840 certificates issued to the traders concerned. It will be noted that the figure for bacon, gammon, ham, etc., is over 3 tons, this being condemned mainly for decomposition. Tinned prepared meats like ham and tongue roll are also a big item again this year, as is meat and offal. It is felt that better housekeeping and the improvement in refrigeration facilities in retail shops, would help to reduce these figures, which no doubt are reflected in the retail price of some of these commodities. Details of the food condemned are given below:—

Bacon, Gammon, Ham etc.	. . . . .	7,269 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb.
Brawn	. . . . .	994 lb.
Bread (German)	. . . . .	13 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
Cheese	. . . . .	39 lb.
Chicken	. . . . .	187 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb.
Coconuts	. . . . .	250 nuts
Cod Roe	. . . . .	14 lb.
Corned Beef	. . . . .	306 lb.
Currants	. . . . .	60 lb.
Dates	. . . . .	115 lb.
Fish	. . . . .	427 lb.
Fruit salad	. . . . .	55 lb.
Fruit Pulp	. . . . .	773 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
Hamburgers	. . . . .	57 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
Ice Cream Mix	. . . . .	19 gallons
Jam & Marmalade	. . . . .	27 lb.
Jellied Veal	. . . . .	48 lb.
Lard	. . . . .	120 lb.
Luncheon Meat & Sausage	. . . . .	355 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb.
Meat	. . . . .	3,592 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb.
Offal	. . . . .	2,738 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
Pies, Meat	. . . . .	60 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
Potatoes	. . . . .	175 lb.
Prawns	. . . . .	12 lb.
Rabbit	. . . . .	60 lb.
Rolls —Ham & Tongue	. . . . .	1,542 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
—Pork	. . . . .	175 lb.
—Savoury & Onion	. . . . .	146 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb.
Sausages & Sausage Meat	. . . . .	2,448 lb.
Tins, assorted	. . . . .	5,398 lb.

(c) *MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS*

The position in the town with regard to milk processing now seems to have stabilised. We have 3 establishments—Reading Co-operative Society Limited, 150 Oxford Road; H. Williams & Sons, 675 Oxford Road; and the Dairy Department, Reading University. The last-named plant is installed primarily for instructional and demonstration purposes, but is available for use by the trade in the event of emergency and at peak periods. Two of the processing plants are of the H.T.S.T. pattern and one is of the Holder type.

With the introduction of quinquennial relicensing in 1961, the amount of work involved in dealing with licences has been very much reduced. Milk sold by retail today is invariably in a sealed container so that licensing in the vast majority of cases is largely a formality. Apart from the supervision of milk supplies and the general inspection of food premises, the product is regularly sampled and there is satisfactory control. During the year, the following licences were issued, these being mainly changes in occupation:—

3 Pasteurised; 1 Sterilised; 1 Tuberculin Tested.

During the last two or three years, there has been an increase in the number of milk vending machines sited at vantage points in various parts of the town. The installation of vending machines seems to have come to a stop now, most worthwhile sites having been occupied. They do, however, give a useful service as milk is available at all times of the day and night, and the low temperature at which it is sold, has made it quite popular, especially during the Summer.

Milk Receptacles

Regular inspections were made of the dairies in the town during the year and particular attention was directed to the condition of churns and bottles. A series of bottles were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination from each of the establishments during the year. The results indicate a satisfactory bacteriological standard, colony counts being well within the provisional classification range.

Samples: Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960

The results of samples submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, are as follows:—

Class of Milk	No. of Samples Tested	Appropriate Tests	No. of Samples		
			Passed	Failed	Void
Pasteurised ...	143	Phosphatase	143	—	—
		Methylene Blue	142	—	1
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	300	Phosphatase	299	1	—
		Methylene Blue	293	5	2
Tuberculin Tested	47	Methylene Blue	42	3	2
Sterilised	55	Turbidity	55	—	—

All unsatisfactory samples were investigated and, where necessary, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food and outside licensing authorities were informed.

A few isolated samples of T.T. Pasteurised Homogenised Milk were submitted for examination and were found to be unsatisfactory. Representations were made and these supplies ceased.

School Milk

Milk deliveries to the Council's Schools were checked during the year both under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations and the Food & Drugs Act. The results of all samples taken were reported as satisfactory.

Ice Cream

There was a further increase in the number of dealers registered for the storage and sale of ice cream during the year, there being a total of 584 on the register at the end of 1961. The number of Ice Cream Manufacturers in the town remains the same, but the vast bulk of ice cream is supplied by national firms. It is interesting to note that a new method of manufacture has been introduced in the town in the form of mobile ice cream making machines. These vehicles are equipped with refrigerating plant, storage capacity for the ice cream mix and other frozen commodities, a continuous freezer, together with suitable washing facilities including hot and cold water. As with many types of food, the public taste is frequently changing and there seems to be a greater emphasis now on soft ice cream, the type of commodity that was mostly sold several years ago.

During the year, 151 samples of Ice Cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination and the results of the test applied, are as follows:—

Provisional Grade 1	.	.	.	.	.	.	104
Provisional Grade 2	.	.	.	.	.	.	35
Provisional Grade 3	.	.	.	.	.	.	8
Provisional Grade 4	.	.	.	.	.	.	4

Unlike milk, for example, there is no statutory test for ice cream although the Minister recommends that local authorities should continue the use of the Methylene Blue test as a guide to the bacteriological condition of ice cream. The test affords a simple means of grading the product and has proved useful in indicating whether further investigation is called for in the practices of manufacturers, distributors and retailers. It is emphasised, however, that the examination of samples in the Bacteriological Laboratory is only one of several means of investigation which should be applied.

The following is the recommended provisional grading based on the methylene blue reduction test, in which readings are taken half-hourly:—

Provisional Grade	Time taken to reduce Methylene Blue
1	Fails to reduce in 4 hours
2	2½—4 hours
3	½—2 hours
4	0

The majority of samples from any one producer should fall into Grade 1 or 2. If too many samples fall into Grade 2, it is recommended that cultures should be made to identify the prevalent organism, especially where first-hand knowledge of the firm's methods leads one to expect Grade 1 results. The sources of all the Provisional Grade 3 and Grade 4 samples were investigated and appropriate advice given.



Food hygiene film show for food handling. Factory canteen

Ice Cream Vehicles, Stalls, etc.

The stalls erected in parks and playing fields when special exhibitions like the County Fair are held, are regularly inspected during the season. There is a most useful arrangement with the Borough Surveyor's Department whereby prospective stall-holders are required to contact this department with regard to the requirements that are likely to be laid down concerning the sale of ice cream. Inspection of stalls and vehicles operating in the town was carried out during the year; no unsatisfactory conditions were reported.

(d) FOOD HANDLING

The food retail trade saw further advance in the practice of self-service in food shops during the year and pre-packaging of food continues to increase in range. The biggest advance in recent years has probably been in the sale of pre-packed frozen foods, and the deep-freeze cabinet is becoming more and more part of the food traders' equipment. There are several large national concerns producing these foods now and competition is no doubt improving the standard of goods and efficiency in handling. Deep-frozen foods are produced in fairly exacting conditions and unless this is followed up by suitable storage prior to retail sale, the quality and condition can be materially affected. Our attention has been drawn from time to time to the practice of some retailers over-stocking their cabinet so that some of the food has been exposed above the "deep-freeze" line. The matter has been discussed with food producers and advisory leaflets are now sent out to food traders as a matter of routine, detailing the points which need to be observed if goods are to be kept in peak condition.

The regular inspection of food premises has been continued during the year so far as resources allowed, and the Public Health Inspectors paid 4,011 visits to various food establishments during 1961. Advice and, in some cases, warnings have been given to occupiers of food premises in connection with Food Hygiene Regulations. We are pleased to see a very high standard observed in some of our food establishments. This does help considerably in raising standards in food premises in the town as a whole.

There were a number of new eating establishments opened in the town during the year, a class of premises which accounts for a fair proportion of the Inspectors' time, especially in the town centre. It is hoped to be able to give even more attention to this section of the work in the coming year.

Food Hygiene Regulations

There were two cases during the year where legal proceedings were instituted under the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958. These involved smoking in one of the slaughterhouses. Fines of £2 were imposed in each case.

Food Hygiene Instruction

We have continued with lectures and film shows again this year. It is felt that this is useful work as it will be education in the end that will give us standards that we desire. Unfortunately, food handlers in general are not particularly enthusiastic in receiving instruction in food hygiene. Food traders themselves continue to think in terms of higher standards and undoubtedly many achieve them, but there is a proportion of cases where a little more enthusiasm could be shown. The department is willing and keen to help traders in this work by visiting food premises, giving talks and putting on film shows if there is a demand for it.

Food Complaints

Mention was made last year of a tendency for complaints about food to increase. There is a similar trend this year, particularly after three cases were heard in the Magistrates Court, when increase in numbers was most marked. The cases in respect of which legal proceedings were taken, were as follows:—

- (1) Steak & Kidney Pie—unfit for human consumption. Firm fined £25.
- (2) Croquette—unfit for human consumption. Firm fined £25, plus 3/3. costs.
- (3) Doughnut containing extraneous matter. Firm fined £10.

In all, approximately 70 complaints were received in 1961, a proportion of which were of a trivial nature, whilst in others warnings were given. Justifiable complaints are encouraged because they do help the department to make prompt investigations into unsatisfactory circumstances of food processing, storage, etc. The food traders themselves, of course, are very concerned when complaints are made and are invariably anxious to find the source of the trouble and to take steps to ensure that the incident does not recur. It is felt, however, that shop assistants and food handlers themselves can do more towards preventing these occurrences by taking a greater interest in their work, and by attending courses of instruction when these are available. It is significant that a fair proportion of the complaints that were received could have been avoided by reasonable care on the part of the food handlers. A heavy fine and a great deal of unwelcome publicity is a high price to pay for lack of attention on the part of an employee.

Food Premises

In addition to ice cream premises, there are other establishments registered in accordance with the provisions of Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, as follows:—

Fish Friers	43
Sausage Manufacturers	102
Pressed Meat Manufacturers	53
Jam Manufacturers	2
Potato Crisp Manufacturers	1
Margarine Wholesale Stores	4
Cooking of Poultry	5
Sale of "Hot Dogs"	2
	—
	212
	—

In addition to the previous table, there are 980 other food premises recorded, to which 1,751 visits were paid. The number of premises arranged in the various classes, is as follows:—

Bakers Shops	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	24
Butchers Shops	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	98
Cafés	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	77
Chinese Restaurants	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4
Indian Restaurant	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Cake Shops	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	48
Dairies and Milk Shops	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	29
Fish Shops	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	38
Greengrocers Shops	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	106
Grocers Shops	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	357
Sweet Shops	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	163
Wholesale Food Factories	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	35
								<hr/> 980 <hr/>

School Kitchens

Numerous visits were paid to these establishments, partly as a matter of routine and on occasion by request. These concerned fitness of food, the quality of meat supplied to kitchens, the standard of milk supplies and other relevant matters. The standard of premises and of food handling was quite good.

(e) *SAMPLING, FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1955*

There was little introduced by way of new legislation during the year although greater attention is being given to the control of additives in food. The maximum lead content standard of two parts per million has been laid down for certain imported foodstuffs and will enable authorised officers to seize and have destroyed consignments containing larger concentrations of lead than this. One of the difficulties of Food & Drugs Authorities has been the restricted action that could be taken in respect of imported foodstuffs once they reached the retail shops.

Four hundred and twenty-two samples of food and drugs were submitted for examination during the year. In 1961, sixteen (3.79%) were reported to be not up to standard compared with sixteen (6.06%) in 1960. Details of the samples procured and those found to be not up to standard, are shown in the following tables.

Of the samples obtained, 152 were of milk, and of these, five (3.23%) were below the prescribed standard. This compares with twenty-three (14.74%) out of a total of 156 samples of milk obtained last year.

All five deficient milk samples were stated to be genuine but of poor quality.

The improvement in the solids-not-fat figures during the year has been particularly marked. The quality of milk generally continues to show improvement. Reference was made in the 1960 Annual Report to the recommendations of the Interdepartmental Committee on Milk Composition in the United Kingdom, and no doubt these recommendations, coupled with the proposed quality payments to producers, are beginning to have effect.

FOOD AND DRUG SAMPLES

Article examined	Number of Samples	Number found to be genuine	Number not up to standard
Almond Essence	1	1	—
Almonds, Ground	3	2	1
Almonds, Sugared	1	1	—
Angelica	1	1	—
Apples	1	1	—
Arrowroot	1	1	—
Beef Curry	1	1	—
Beefburgers	1	1	—
Beetroot, sliced	1	1	—
Biscuits	1	1	—
Black Pudding	1	1	—
Butter	9	9	—
Cake Mix	2	2	—
Cakes—Chocolate Tea	2	2	—
—Date & Walnut	1	—	1
Capers in Malt Vinegar	1	1	—
Cheese	4	4	—
Cheese Spreads, various	8	8	—
Cherries, Glaced	1	1	—
Chocolate —Dairy Mousse	1	1	—
—Fudge Frosting Mix	1	1	—
—Rilchoc Block	1	1	—
Coconut, Desiccated	2	2	—
Coffee	2	2	—
Coffee Spread	1	1	—
Cream	4	4	—
Cream of Tartar	1	1	—
Cream Sponge	3	2	1
Dripping	1	1	—
Eclairs	1	1	—
Egg Yellow	1	1	—
Eggs, hard boiled	1	—	1
Faggots	2	2	—
Fish Cakes	1	1	—
Flavouring	1	1	—
Flour—Batter	1	1	—
—Plain	5	4	1
—Self Raising	2	2	—
Fruit —Dried	2	2	—
—Juices and Squashes	2	2	—
—Tinned	6	6	—
Gelatine	1	1	—
Gherkins, Cocktail	1	—	1
Glucose	1	1	—
Ham & Tongue	1	1	—
Ice Cream	12	12	—
Ice Cream with fruit and nuts	1	1	—
Ice Cream Lolly	3	3	—
Ice Lolly	4	4	—
Ice Lolly Mix (Syrup)	1	1	—
Jam	6	6	—
Jel	1	1	—
Lard	5	5	—
Lemon Cheese	1	1	—
Macaroni	1	1	—
Margarine	6	5	1
Marmalade	3	3	—
Meringues, Cream	1	1	—
Milk	152	148	4
Milk, Condensed	3	3	—
Minced Beef	10	9	1
Minced Beef with Onions and Gravy	1	1	—
Minced Loaf	1	1	—
Minced Pork	1	1	—

FOOD AND DRUG SAMPLES

Article examined	Number of Samples	Number found to be genuine	Number not up to standard
Minced Steak	1	1	—
Minced Steak, Savoury	1	1	—
Mincemeat	3	3	—
Mint in Vinegar	1	1	—
Oil —Corn	1	1	—
—Ground Nut	1	1	—
—Mustard	1	1	—
—Vegetable	1	1	—
Paste, Fish and Meat	2	2	—
Pastry, Puff	1	1	—
Pâté de Foie	2	1	1
Pearl Barley	1	1	—
Peas, Frozen with Mint	1	1	—
Peas, Processed	4	4	—
Peel, Cut	2	1	1
Pepper, White	1	1	—
Pickles and Sauces	13	13	—
Pilchards in Tomatoes	1	1	—
Powders —Blancmange	1	1	—
—Curry	1	1	—
—Golden Raising	1	1	—
—Ice Cream	2	2	—
—Lemonade	1	1	—
—Meringue	1	1	—
Prawns in Brine	1	1	—
Puddings —Butter Apple Sponge	1	1	—
—Christmas	2	2	—
—Pineapple Rice	1	1	—
—Steak & Kidney	1	1	—
—Rice, Creamed	1	1	—
Sago	1	1	—
Salad Cream	1	1	—
Sausage Rolls	1	1	—
Sausages —Beef	5	5	—
—Frankfurters	2	2	—
—French Garlic	1	1	—
—Pork	4	4	—
—Veal	1	1	—
Shrimps, Peeled	1	1	—
Soft Drinks	9	9	—
Soup, Tinned	2	2	—
Spaghetti in Tomato Sauce	1	1	—
Spices	4	4	—
Steaklets	1	1	—
Stewed Steak	1	—	1
Suet, Beef, Shredded	1	1	—
Sugar, Tinted crystals	1	1	—
Sweets and Sugar Confectionery	11	10	1
Swiss Roll	2	2	—
Tea	2	2	—
Vegetables, Mixed	1	1	—
Vinegar, Malt	4	3	1
Vinegar, Wine	1	1	—
Walnuts	1	1	—
Yogurt	1	1	—
Gin	1	1	—
Green Ginger Wine	1	1	—
Raisin Wine	1	1	—
Wine Cocktail	2	2	—
Whisky	1	1	—
Acetic Acid B.P.	1	1	—
Cochineal, Extract of	1	1	—
Iodine, Tincture of	2	2	—
	422	405	17

ACTION TAKEN IN RESPECT OF THE SAMPLES REPORTED AS ADULTERATED OR BELOW STANDARD

No. of Sample	Article	Whether Formal or Informal	Nature of Adulteration	Observations
21	Flour	Informal	Contained extraneous matter	Letter of warning
35	Minced Beef	Formal	Contained 38% fat	Matter taken up with manufacturers
48	Milk	Formal	Fat 2.7%	Genuine but of poor quality.
58	Macaroon Cake	Formal	Incorrect description	Milking conditions investigated
73	Cut Peel	Formal	Deficient in sugar. Fermenting	Matter taken up with manufacturers
96	Malt Vinegar	Formal	Contained extraneous material etc.	Letter of warning
124	Milk	Formal	4.75% deficient in milk fat	{ Letters to suppliers Follow-up samples satisfactory
128	Milk	Formal	7.50% deficient in milk fat	
155	Cocktail Gherkins	Informal	Incorrectly labelled	
191	Hard boiled eggs	Informal	Discoloured	
221	Pâté de Foie	Informal	Tin punctured. Interior of tin badly corroded	Label amended by manufacturers
228	Ground Almonds	Formal	Debittered bitter almonds	Stale but sound
246	Cream Sponge	Formal	Contained synthetic cream	Remaining stock satisfactory
261	Milk	Formal	Solids-not-fat 8.09%	Matter taken up with suppliers
276	Date & Walnut Cake	Formal	Contained insufficient walnut	Letter of warning
318	Stewed Steak	Informal	Incorrectly described	Genuine but of poor quality
334	Margarine	Informal	Deficient in meat	Matter taken up with manufacturers and Research Association
			Contained 9% excess water	Matter taken up with manufacturers
				Follow-up sample reported satisfactory

The following samples of milk were found to be genuine but of poor quality:—

Number of Sample	Article	Whether Formal or Informal	Result of Analysis	
48	Milk	Formal	Fat 2.70%	Solids-not-fat 8.50%
85	Milk	Formal	Fat 2.90%	Solids-not-fat 8.25%
93	Milk	Formal	Fat 4.10%	Solids-not-fat 8.45%
167	Milk	Formal	Fat 2.85%	Solids-not-fat 8.58%
173	Milk	Formal	Fat 2.65%	Solids-not-fat 8.67%
261	Milk	Formal	Fat 3.07%	Solids-not-fat 8.09%

Merchandise Marks Act

The marking of imported foodstuffs exposed for sale is regularly checked by Inspectors when visiting food premises. One hundred and sixty-nine visits were paid for this purpose and warnings were given where necessary. It was found that the Act was generally well observed and informal action is all that is usually required.

3 ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

The Clean Air Act has been in operation for five years and we are now seeing the results of the work that has been done under the Act. In Reading we have endeavoured to deal with all aspects of the problem, both industrial and domestic, and it is interesting to see how the prejudices towards clean air measures which existed in the first two or three years, have largely disappeared. Both industrialists and householders alike are realising the value of smoke control and many enquiries

have been received, particularly over the last twelve months, as to ways in which conditions can be improved.

Whilst the recent report by the Royal College of Physicians is almost wholly concerned with the use of tobacco, the harmful effects of atmospheric pollution are emphasised and it would seem likely that a new emphasis will be placed on clean air. So far as the industrial aspect in Reading is concerned, the real black spots have been cleared, although inspections and observations are necessary to ensure that plant is being well-maintained. The Railways modernisation plan, though not yet complete, is resulting in a reduction in steam locomotives which, in turn, is reducing atmospheric pollution, both smoke and grit. On the domestic side, slow but steady progress has been made on smoke control; we have progressed so far in this that assistance, especially for survey work, is necessary, and the technical assistant approved by the Council should help in this connection.

Installation of New Furnaces

Section 3 of the Clean Air Act, 1956, requires that all new furnaces being installed must be capable, as far as practicable, of operating continuously without emitting smoke while burning fuel of the type for which it is designed. It also requires the person installing the furnace to inform the local authority. Fifty-eight formal notifications of intention to install industrial furnaces were received during the year, many of which were associated with new factories on the Basingstoke Road and Cardiff Road industrial estates, together with extensions and increasing power demands in existing factories generally. It will no doubt be realised that the greater the number of new furnaces and the greater the quantity of fuel burnt, the more will be the pollution entering the atmosphere. One of the important factors, therefore, in controlling pollution, is to ensure that all these new fuel-burning plants are as efficient as modern techniques will allow. The types of installations were as follows:—

Steam Raising

4 super-economic boilers; 4 packaged boilers; 1 vertical boiler.

Space Heating

7 packaged boilers; 17 sectional boilers; 25 direct-fired warm air heaters.

It is interesting to note that, apart from 2 sectional boilers using gas and solid smokeless fuel, all the furnaces were oil-fired. Some of these were in the town centre, in office blocks and large stores, the fuel consumption in which, during the heating season, is the equivalent of that of a medium-sized factory. Of the 179 new industrial furnaces notified since 1956, 92.7% have been designed for oil fuel.

In 5 cases, plans and specifications of furnaces were submitted for prior approval in accordance with the Act.

Chimney Heights

Section 10 of the Clean Air Act places an obligation on local authorities to satisfy themselves that new chimneys to certain types of buildings are to be of such a height as to avoid creating a nuisance or causing conditions that would be prejudicial to health. It was necessary, therefore, during the year, to examine plans of factories, commercial and other buildings for the purpose of ensuring that the chimney heights were sufficient. Some 27 cases were dealt with and in 9 instances the height was not sufficient to avoid the possibility of nuisance. Increases in height range from 5-feet to 40-feet.

The need for this provision is emphasized by the complaints we have received from time to time concerning nuisances which had arisen due to existing chimneys

being too low. In several cases the heights of the chimneys were increased after discussion with the management or owners of the premises concerned. In one instance it has been necessary to serve a Statutory Notice, one of the requirements of which was that the chimney height should be increased.

Complaints and Observations

Seventy-one complaints were received during the year alleging nuisance from smoke, smut, grit and fumes. During investigations and as a matter of routine, 294 observations of chimneys were carried out. No contraventions of Section 1 were noted, the density and period of emissions being less than laid down in the Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods) Regulations. In three instances, informal action was taken regarding nuisance from indiscriminate burning of rubbish and alternative methods of disposal suggested.

The majority of complaints during the year related to nuisance from grit and oil smut discharged from chimneys. A formal notice was served under Section 16 of the Clean Air Act in respect of one boiler plant and the work of fitting a grit arrester and extending the chimney stack was in hand at the end of the year. In another case, the primary cause was the overloading of a boiler during periods of heavy heating demand. It was suggested that two boilers be brought into use during the peak periods and the lessening of the steam load resulted in improved conditions in the area.

The use of one cupola was discontinued during the year; three others are fitted with dry grit arresters. The management of another foundry fitted wet washers to their two cupolas and this has resulted in better conditions in the vicinity of the establishment. It is known, of course, that whilst wet washers deal fairly effectively with grit and dust emission, other difficulties can arise with this type of equipment. It will therefore be interesting to see the long-term effect these alterations will have.

As was mentioned in last year's Report, we have co-operated with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in their investigation into the problem of smut emission from oil-fired boilers. The findings of this investigation have now been published and an advisory panel set up to help local authorities and owners of plant to deal with the more difficult cases. It is suggested that if the oil supplier is unable to deal with the case, enquiries should be made to the Warren Spring Advisory Panel.

Trouble was experienced in West Reading from the emission of smuts from a large oil-fired boiler plant. Investigations and adjustments to the plant resulted in the abatement of the nuisance. One of the major causes of smut emission is low temperature in the chimney flue and it is noticeable that the trend is to design boiler installations with separate flues for each unit and in the case of metal stacks, to clad them with aluminium to reduce heat loss.

The problem of diesel fumes received much publicity during the year, the investigations into measurement and causes of diesel pollution continued. The law dealing with emissions from road vehicles is contained in the Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations made by the Ministry of Transport and administered by the Police. A new regulation came into force on January 1st, 1962, which makes it an offence to operate an excess fuel device once the engine has started or while the vehicle is in motion. This device, if improperly used, can cause dense black smoke, and the measure is very welcome.

All the stationary diesel engines in Reading were found to be well maintained and no trouble has been experienced. These appliances, when connected to chimneys, can be, and are dealt with, under the Clean Air Act. In a few cases of excessive smoke emission from diesel compressors used on road works, etc., the contractors carried out adjustments when their attention was drawn to the matter.

Routine visits were carried out to the two brickworks in the town and other processes registered under the Alkali Works Act, and there was close liaison with the Alkali Works Inspectors on these matters.

Smoke Control Areas

Further progress was made with the introduction of Smoke Control Areas in the Borough. Five Smoke Control Areas were confirmed, four came into operation on November 1st, 1961, and the fifth on December 1st, 1961. One further Area—the Cockney Hill/Prospect Park Area—was approved by the Council in principle and a survey is to be carried out in order to obtain more detailed information. The Smoke Control Area position in Reading, therefore, at the end of the year, was as follows:—

		TYPE OF PREMISES				Area in Acres	Name	Date of Operation	Stage
		Dwellings	Industrial	Commercial and others	TOTAL				
1	Coley Park	475	—	2	477	106		June 1st, 1959	Confirmed
2	Broad St./Friar St.	34	18	281	333	15		June 1st, 1960	Confirmed
3	Coley Park Extension	149	—	6	155	45		Dec. 1st, 1961	Confirmed
4	Burghfield Road	174	—	—	174	22		Nov. 1st, 1961	Confirmed
5	Old Southcote Lodge	79	—	2	81	114		Nov. 1st, 1961	Confirmed
6	Broad St./Mill Lane	52	32	194	278	29		Nov. 1st, 1961	Confirmed
7	Burghfield Road /Holybrook Crescent	44	—	—	44	30		Nov. 1st, 1961	Confirmed
8	Cockney Hill /Prospect Park	566	4	14	584	234		Declared in principle	
TOTALS:		1,573	54	499	2,126	595			

The total expenditure so far on adaptations in Smoke Control Areas is approximately £800, of which approximately £240 is rate-borne. Experience on survey and adaptations confirms our original views on this matter, that it is impossible to give a very accurate estimation of the likely costs involved in the very early stages of making a smoke control area. Between the time of the original survey and date of confirmation, many changes take place in an Area; tenants change, unoccupied premises become tenanted and, of course, the reverse happens. Methods of heating vary also according to the ideas of individuals or firms. Indeed, the Minister has now come to recognise the difficulty of obtaining detailed costs any length of time ahead of the work being done, and he has modified the administration procedure to some extent to meet this point. It is also no longer necessary to submit proposals to the Ministry for preliminary approval. This will tend to reduce the delay between the Council's approval in principle and moving on to the next stage, but the information the Council requires will be much the same.

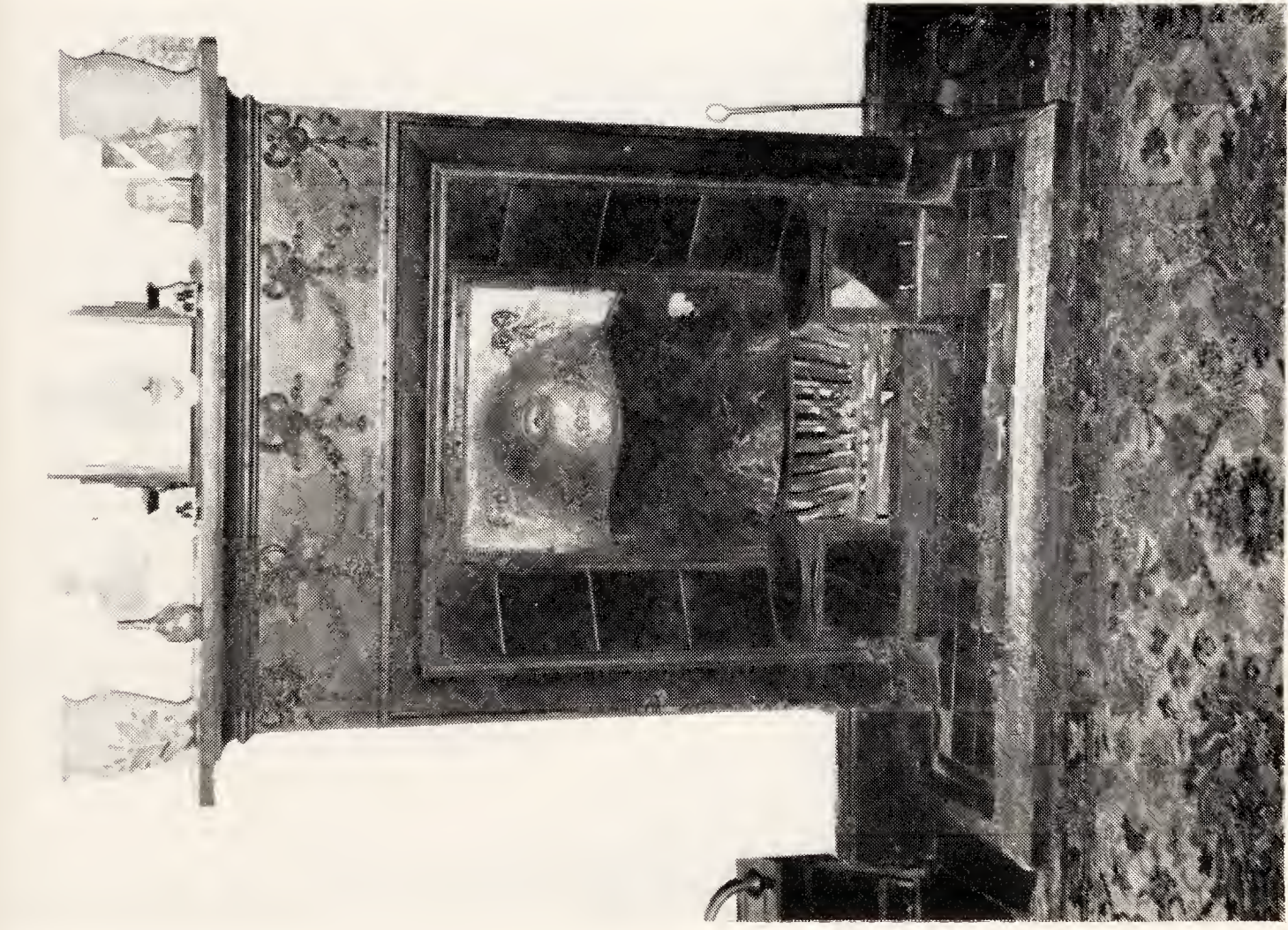
The rates for grant aid remain the same in the case of dwellings—3/10ths of the cost is borne by the owner/occupier; 3/10ths by the local authority, and 4/10ths by the Ministry. It is pleasing to report that both householders and occupiers of commercial and industrial premises have shown the greatest possible co-operation. Another feature of the work that has been done so far is that we receive many enquiries from time to time from people in various parts of the Borough asking when they are likely to be made subject to smoke control, and asking for advice on firegrates and smokeless fuels.

Education and Publicity

The way in which the clean air measures have been received by the general public and others, is probably due in no small measure to the way in which information has been given on all aspects of the subject. We have worked on the principle that a well-informed public is more inclined to accept what was a short time ago something in the nature of a revolutionary measure. We have therefore continued to give publicity and information on this matter and, not least, every endeavour has been made to visit factories and householders in order to discuss problems at first hand.

Several small exhibitions were arranged at clinics in the town and the Clean Air stand at the Welcome to Citizenship Exhibition in the Town Hall in January, proved of special interest to visitors; many comments were made on the evidence produced by the volumetric instrument which recorded daily the amount of pollution in the air.

There was close liaison throughout the year with the National Coal Board which gave a great deal of help on fuel problems, especially in industrial establishments. The competition which now exists between the different fuel concerns, is producing a vast amount of technical information and strongly encourages greater efficiency in the use of fuel. In this connection, pamphlets, leaflets and brochures have been readily made available by the National Coal Board, the Southern Electricity Board, the Southern Gas Board, the Coal Utilisation Council and the Solid Smokeless Fuels Federation. The Solid Smokeless Fuels Federation sited their mobile demonstration unit in various parts of the town where Smoke Control Orders were coming into operation. The attendants reported considerable interest on the part of enquirers in these Areas who were given useful advice. The Southern Gas Board also arranged in the town, house-to-house visits by technical staff who give information on the use of gas and coke. The Coal Utilisation Council have continued their publicity campaign with special emphasis on the modern type of approved solid fuel burning appliance. They are also making progress with their Approved Appliance Fixers scheme which is based on the principle that the modern grate must be properly fixed if it is to operate efficiently. A requirement of all firms on the approved fixers panel is that they shall employ men who have attended practical courses organised by



Fireplace before adaptation



Fireplace after adaptation. Modern grate with integral gas ignition

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the Coal Utilisation Council and have proved their efficiency in this work. Several new instruction centres have been set up at Technical Colleges by the Coal Utilisation Council in collaboration with the Education Authorities, but, unfortunately, facilities are not yet available in Reading.

It is pleasing to note that much greater prominence has been given in recent months by Coal Merchants in the district to the advantages of using smokeless fuel. It is very much in the interests of the public to know that, weight for weight, considerably more available heat is obtained from solid smokeless fuels than from luminous coal. Moreover, it is a scientific fact that there are no more harmful fumes from, say, coke than there are from coal, and provided that the grate is of the right type and is properly fixed and used, the use of solid smokeless fuel will now a financial saving. It is important that all fuel users should realise this.

We were fortunate also in being allocated space in the "Civic News" in which to express views on clean air and this, together with other information that has been made available from many sources, has helped towards an interested and an informed public.

Air Pollution Investigation

We continue to operate 8 lead peroxide candles, the results from which are tabulated on page 104. There was also the volumetric pollution instrument sited at Bristol & West House and which measures smoke concentration and the amount of sulphur dioxide in the air, the results from which are also recorded on page 105. The results, both for the lead peroxide and volumetric pollution instruments, indicate very forcibly the difference in purity between the air in Summer as against that in Winter. This is entirely due to the pollution arising from the increased use of fuel during the Winter months.

It was mentioned in the Report last year that the lead peroxide instrument was under investigation by the Department of Scientific & Industrial Research. The Department has now reported on this matter and as it is found that the lead peroxide instrument merely indicates the degree of reaction between sulphur dioxide in the air and lead peroxide on the surface of the instrument, these instruments are not sufficiently reliable in detecting trends in pollution concentration. It appears that temperature, wind speed, humidity and other factors are likely to materially affect results, quite apart from the actual amount of pollution present. Whilst the Department of Scientific & Industrial Research states that the instruments may have local value, they suggest that local authorities should look into the advisability of continuing these instruments. It is likely that these will be discontinued in Reading early in the coming year.

As was stated last year, there is an extensive detailed atmospheric pollution survey being undertaken by the Geography Department of Reading University, and the Department of Scientific & Industrial Research, and in which this Department and individual members of the staff are co-operating. In connection with this survey, some 34 volumetric instruments have been sited in and around the town and these have been operating since May, 1961. Readings of smoke concentration and S.O_2 are taken almost daily and the results are being collated by the University and forwarded to the Department of Scientific & Industrial Research. This survey is being undertaken as a kind of adjunct to the national survey being carried out by the Department of Scientific & Industrial Research and certain specified local authorities, and will assist considerably in building up a more detailed picture of air pollution levels in this country which the Minister and the Clean Air Council have been most anxious to obtain.

The Department is grateful for the assistance afforded by the Borough Surveyor and the Sewage Works Manager in the assessment of pollution from lead peroxide instruments.

1961—MONTHLY ESTIMATION OF SULPHUR BY LEAD PEROXIDE METHOD

STATION	Mg. of SO ₃ /day collected by 100 sq. cm. of Batch A PbO ₂ (louvered cover)											
	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1. Emmer Green Primary School	1.10	1.04	0.90	0.87	0.43	0.29	0.24	0.23	0.54	0.67	1.21	1.74
2. Caversham Sewage Works ...	1.18	1.16	1.00	0.87	0.41	0.34	0.29	0.26	0.48	0.60	1.04	1.32
3. Alfred Sutton Secondary Girls School ...	1.50	1.57	1.41	0.86	0.56	0.61	0.61	0.52	0.46	0.94	1.58	1.88
4. Geoffrey Field School ...	1.03	0.90	0.86	0.66	0.47	0.32	0.29	0.24	0.44	0.51	1.32	1.16
5. Water Dept. Depot, Berkeley Avenue ...	1.61	1.42	1.25	0.94	0.59	0.36	0.32	0.27	0.55	0.87	1.71	2.03
6. Tilehurst Reservoir, Park Lane, Tilehurst ...	0.71	0.67	0.61	0.57	0.25	0.17	0.15	0.15	0.35	0.35	0.95	1.33
7. Battle Hospital, Oxford Road	1.46	1.36	1.12	1.11	0.52	0.36	0.30	0.35	0.67	0.68	1.40	1.90
8. E.P. Collier School, York Road	1.93	*	1.39	1.05	0.58	0.42	0.37	0.42	0.67	1.05	1.83	1.46
10. Reading University, Dept of Geography ...	1.14	1.08	0.98	0.70	0.54	0.34	0.33	0.31	0.37	0.50	1.44	1.67
11. Reading University, Dreadnought	1.59	1.69	1.78	0.94	0.71	0.52	0.56	0.79	0.64	0.95	1.47	2.13

* No results available

**DAILY ESTIMATION OF SMOKE AND SULPHUR
DIOXIDE BY VOLUMETRIC APPARATUS**

STATION 9. BRISTOL & WEST HOUSE

MONTH	SMOKE Microgrammes/cu. metre		SULPHUR DIOXIDE Microgrammes/cu. metre	
	Maximum	Average	Maximum	Average
January ...	220	90	337	177
February ...	160	50	374	143
March	230	90	472	174
April	160	48	310	118
May	120	40	155	90
June	120	35	149	73
July	90	31	172	66
August ...	50	18	190	43
September ...	110	35	300	89
October ...	160	52	260	121
November ...	300	92	855	188
December ...	355	129	588	250

**4 NUISANCES AND WORK UNDER THE
PUBLIC HEALTH ACT**

Some 490 complaints were received by the department from residents in the Borough concerning many matters. One thousand, two hundred and sixty-five informal notices were served during the year for the abatement of nuisances which were not concerned with housing defects, the latter notices being referred to under the section on Housing. Attention to obstructed and affected sewers and drains is a matter of routine, but some 266 complaints were dealt with during 1961. It was found necessary to clear 1,037 drains or sewers and in a number of cases, repairs also were necessary. There were 201 cases where the owners of the properties involved effected the necessary work. The vast majority of drainage jobs are automatically carried out by the Corporation and the cost of the work is apportioned to individual owners according to the extent of use enjoyed by each property. In some cases, it was necessary to call out workmen on Saturday afternoons or Sundays to deal with obstructed drains as a matter of urgency and it is appropriate once again that reference should be made to the excellent co-operation given by the staff of the Borough Surveyor's Department who dealt promptly and willingly with those cases, many of which arose at inopportune times. Two thousand and fifty-four visits were paid by the Public Health Inspectors during the year on matters concerning drainage.

It is pleasing to report that stocks of coke on the gasworks' site adjoining the Kennet opposite Alfred Sutton Girls' School in Newtown, have been cleared and that coke is now being stored in a part of the works from which grit nuisance is unlikely to arise. The gasworks generally has been a source of complaint during the

year and it would appear that the smell from the Segas plant is the main cause. The Southern Gas Board has been very concerned about these complaints and discussions have taken place between this department, the Gas Board and the Alkali Works Inspector in connection with the matter. Every effort is being made to complete the change in feedstock to the Segas plant to virgin naphtha, a fuel which has a low sulphur content and which will enable the plant to operate with a minimum of nuisance. It must be pointed out, of course, that any conventional gasworks will give rise to a certain amount of smell although there is no reason why it should not be run as efficiently as possible. The Southern Gas Board, however, is endeavouring to eliminate cause for complaint.

There was collaboration with the Alkali Works Inspector through the year in connection with scheduled processes in the town.

There were no further complaints relating to cellulose paint spraying this year, the action taken in the cases mentioned in the last report, appears to have been effective.

The Noise Abatement Act came into operation at the beginning of the year and since that time a number of complaints have been received. These range from noise arising from a religious meeting in a private house on a Sunday morning, to noise emitted from an industrial process. As to when a noise becomes a nuisance is a difficult matter to decide and every valid complaint requires careful investigation. Discussions have taken place in connection with these cases and improvements have been achieved.

Disinfection and Disinfestation—Insanitary Premises

Some 7 verminous persons were treated during the year at the School Clinic. A total of 124 complaints relating to verminous premises was received, in connection with which 245 visits and inspections were made. The number of cases of bed bugs was 60 compared with 58 last year. We had our usual quota of fly, ant, cockroach and flea infestations to deal with and a number of infestations from miscellaneous insects.

The treatment given to deal with the Gooseberry Red Spider Mite—*Bryobia Praetiosa*—appears to have been completely successful. Occupiers of the Bath Road flats were being troubled with large numbers of these insects coming into the flats. Advice was obtained from the Pest Infestation Laboratory at Slough and after the removal of a 3-foot wide strip of turf from around and immediately next to the flats and suitable treatment had been given, the infestation ceased; complaints have not been repeated.

A number of insanitary premises were dealt with during the year. In most of these cases, the person concerned does not appreciate the very low level to which conditions have deteriorated. They are often confined to their own premises and do not have the opportunity of comparison with other places. They are often surprised that conditions in which they are living should cause concern to the Authorities, and a great deal of tact has to be used in dealing with them. Where appropriate, Welfare Officers or the Domestic Help Service were brought in to assist in making conditions more satisfactory for these people and in order to help them in other ways to be rehabilitated.

Common Lodging Houses

The Keeper of the Common Lodging House who has performed this function for many years, intimated at the beginning of the year that she did not propose to carry on. The closing of the Common Lodging House would have involved the displacement of approximately 80 people, a fair proportion of whom would have fallen upon the local authority for alternative accommodation of some kind. It was decided to make some arrangement to keep it going until such time as the proposed new

hostel could be built. The Salvation Army agreed to take over the place as a temporary measure and continue it as a Common Lodging House, on the understanding that more suitable accommodation would be made available within a reasonable time. A number of improvements were carried out, particularly on the catering side, and the Common Lodging House continues to function. We cannot stress too much, however, that conditions are not altogether satisfactory and something should be done to provide more satisfactory facilities as soon as possible.

Infectious Diseases

Twenty-one inspections of premises were made during the year following notifications of infectious diseases. Defective conditions in houses were taken up with the owners and notices requiring repairs were served as necessary. In one or two cases where contacts were connected with the food industry, it was necessary to arrange with the employing firms that contacts should not handle food.

Offensive Trades

The offensive trades established within the Borough comprise: 1 blood drier, 1 tripe boiler and dresser, and 1 rag and bone dealer. Eleven visits were paid and general conditions associated with the business investigated. Conditions were found to be reasonably satisfactory.

Movable Dwellings

The Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act, 1960, was placed on the Statute Book during 1960. This Act was introduced to improve means of control over the establishment of sites for caravans. Whilst the number of caravans in Reading is small compared with other districts, because of the town's built-up nature, it is essential that the situation be carefully controlled and standards improved as circumstances permit. The Town Planning & Buildings Committee adopted the model conditions issued by the Ministry for all caravans in the town and decided generally that all new caravans for permanent residential use shall have mains water and a water carriage system of drainage readily available. 491 visits were paid to caravan dwellings during the year.

Swimming Baths

Full details of the three public swimming baths in Reading were given in the Report last year. The number of swimming pools at schools in the town is increasing. The four main ones are at Reading School, Queen Anne's Girls' School, Leighton Park School and the Abbey Girls' School. They all have automatic filtration and chlorine dosage plants. Samples taken from these pools during the year were satisfactory. There are also a number of learner pools—at the Hill Primary, Grove School, the No. 9 School, Ashmead, Southcote Primary, and Geoffrey Field Schools. The ones at Ashmead, Southcote Primary and Geoffrey Field have automatic filtration and chlorine dosage plants. The control technique we have evolved following the detailed investigation undertaken in 1957, is recommended to all the schools and is proving most effective.

Drinking Water

Fifty-five samples of water were obtained from private wells in the town used for drinking purposes or in connection with food trade establishments. Detailed investigations were necessary in respect of 3 samples and appropriate action was taken.

Twelve samples of mains water were obtained during the year and examined by the Public Health Laboratory. All proved satisfactory.

5. GENERAL

Factories Acts, 1937-48

There are 624 factories recorded in the register kept for this purpose. Five hundred and seventy-six visits were paid by the Public Health Inspectors. These premises have been kept in a reasonably satisfactory manner during the year and requests by Inspectors have, in the main, been promptly dealt with. It was necessary to serve 7 written notices during the year. The list of outworkers received twice yearly from employers in accordance with Section 110 of the Act, returned 75 outworkers who were principally engaged in making wearing apparel. Of these, 8 were referred to other Local Authorities, 67 were in the Borough and the premises were visited by the Public Health Inspectors.

The work carried out by the Public Health Inspectors in their inspection of factories is to ensure that the premises comply with the Factories Acts so far as the Local Authority's responsibilities extend, except in so far as means of escape in case of fire are concerned, which is done by the Fire Authority. Visits were also made to factories following complaints of nuisance which are dealt with under the Public Health Act.

All plans of proposed factory and other buildings submitted to the Borough Council for approval under the Planning and Building Byelaws, are examined by this department from the point of view of the Factories Acts and Public Health Act, and as regards potential nuisance. Under the Clean Air Act, information is also required on fuel burning appliances in the planning stage so that we can ensure that the provisions of the Clean Air Act will be complied with.

Canteens and Kitchens, etc.

The standard of hygiene observed in these establishments, together with the structure of kitchens and amenities provided therewith, were matters also under supervision. There was one instance of a mild outbreak of food poisoning, originating in one of these canteens during the year. Appropriate recommendations were made concerning food handling practices in the establishment and a lecture and film show was arranged for the benefit of the staff.

The tables below give details of inspections of factories and are the particulars contained in the annual report to the Ministry of Labour and National Service:—

Premises	Number on Register	Inspec- tions	Number of Written Notices
Factories without mechanical power...	94	89	1
Factories with mechanical power ...	530	487	6
	624	576	7

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness	4	4	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	1	1	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	2	2	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:—				
(a) Insufficient	7	7	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	15	15	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	2	2	—	—
	31	31	—	—

Rag Flock & Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

There are 5 premises on the register where filling materials listed in Section 32 of the Act, are used in the manufacture of bedding and other upholstered articles. Eighteen inspections were made of these premises and 10 samples of filling materials submitted for examination, all of which proved satisfactory.

Canal Boats

Thirty-two visits were made to the wharves of the Thames and Kennet and there was no activity to report.

Places of Entertainment

Sixteen visits were paid to the various places of public entertainments. There were no complaints by the public in respect of these establishments during the year.

It is hoped to give a little more attention to this aspect of public health work in the coming year.

Shops Act

Fifty-two visits were paid to all types of shops in the town as a routine duty. It was not found necessary to issue any Certificates of Exemption in respect of sanitary accommodation and washing facilities.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

Eight licences were issued in 1961 under the above Act.

Rodent Control. Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

During 1961, Warfarin was used exclusively for the destruction of rats and mice. It is one of the anti-coagulant rodenticides and over the past few years has proved to be more effective than the previously used poisons. It has been possible to lay the baits in all types of premises without the need for pre-baiting, as there is no bait shyness from colonies of rats or mice, as was the case with arsenic or zinc phosphide. However, Warfarin is known to be toxic towards certain animals and care in its use is very necessary.

A total of 7,647 premises were visited in connection with the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, 771 of which were as a result of complaints. Altogether 567 properties were found to be infested with rats and 204 with mice. In addition, 59 premises infested with rats, and 10 with mice, were found in the course of survey. In most cases, following a complaint, the adjoining premises were surveyed and baits laid at strategic points in order to eliminate all the rats or mice in the area, and where it was considered necessary, baits were laid in the drains and sewers in the neighbourhood of the infestation. When it was suspected that a drain or sewer was the source of the infestation, the District Public Health Inspector has tested the drains, and 89 such inspections were made during 1961. In 9 instances (compared with 11 in 1960) drains or sewers were found to be defective, and after the necessary works were carried out, the infestation ceased.

The main sewers were again systematically treated during the year. Instead of having two distinct treatments, the baiting was spread over a period of several months from late spring into the early autumn. The results of the sewer treatments continue to be most encouraging and details are as follows:—

<i>Manholes Tested</i>	<i>Manholes showing take</i>	<i>No. of visits</i>
359	37	786

Warfarin was again used in the manholes, in a bait consisting of pinhead oatmeal with the addition of para-nitrophenol to keep the baits in good condition in the damp atmosphere of the sewers. It is worth noting that the percentage of manholes where baits have been taken continues to be low, and although it would be too optimistic to expect that the entire rat population of the sewers will be eradicated, it does indicate that the rats have been considerably reduced.

Routine inspections are still carried out at the refuse tips and it is pleasing to note that the sites used for controlled tipping have been sufficiently well-managed that they are virtually free from rodent infestation, and routine visits have been reduced to a minimum.

The Rodent Control section was represented in the "Welcome to Citizenship" Exhibition, which was held from February 1st to 4th. Several exhibits were loaned by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, and the stand aroused considerable interest among the visitors, when the Exhibition was opened to the general public. There is no doubt that this Exhibition, which has now been arranged as an annual event, does draw the attention of the public to the rodent problem, and results in greater co-operation in dealing with these pests.

The treatment of domestic premises for rat and mice destruction is carried out free of charge, but payment is required when work is carried out in business premises. During the financial year 1960/61, the income in respect of this work was £209, compared with £323 for the previous financial year.

Other Pests

In addition to the rodent control work carried out by this section, some 262 complaints were investigated concerning wasps, bees, squirrels, etc. Of these, 230 complaints were in respect of wasps nests. Payment is required in connection with this work, and during the financial year 1960/61, the income was £168.

RODENT CONTROL

Premises inspected as a Result of:— A.B.C.	Private Dwellings	Business Premises including Food Stores and Kitchens	Corporation Property	Agricultural Property	Total
A. Notification 	553	174	38	6	771
B. Survey 	4,777	1,984	32	—	6,793
C. Other purposes 	51	38	—	—	89
Total No. of Inspections, including re-inspections ...	7,314	3,391	451	24	11,180
Number of Infested properties treated 	612	211	40	6	869
Number of Rats picked up ...	405	123	22	13	563
Estimated kill—Rats ...	611	204	54	22	891
Number of Mice picked up ...	185	178	8	—	371
Estimated Kill—Mice ...	488	324	59	—	871

SEWER MAINTENANCE

No. of manholes tested :—359 No. of manholes showed take :—37 No. of visits :—786

Mr. K. H. Thorpe, B.Sc. (Eng.), A.M.I.C.E., M.I.Mun.E., A.M.T.P.I., Borough Engineer and Surveyor, has been good enough to supply the following information:—

House Refuse Collection

During 1961 the collection of house refuse has continued on a once-weekly basis. Additional collections have been given to special premises such as the local hospitals, multi-storey flats, cafes, and food shops in the town centre. The service has been maintained by 15 refuse collection vehicles and 58 employees.

The following table shows the quantity of refuse collected, with the total mileage of vehicles engaged on the collection:—

Quarter ending :				1961		1960	
				<i>Tons</i>	<i>Miles</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Miles</i>
31st March	...	...	...	10,596	33,727	10,180	32,913
30th June	...	...	...	9,642	36,882	9,334	34,597
30th September	...	...	...	9,585	37,861	9,194	35,897
31st December	...	...	...	10,996	38,289	10,747	34,644
Totals				40,819	146,759	39,455	138,051

Trade Refuse is collected at the same time as domestic refuse and at such other times as arranged between the trader and the Corporation. Facilities are available for traders within the Borough to deliver trade refuse direct to the Refuse Disposal Tip by arrangement with the Corporation.

Street Cleansing

The "Beat" system of street cleansing by Street Orderlies has been maintained and, with the assistance of two Mechanical Sweeper Collectors, has proved satisfactory. Collection of street refuse is carried out by means of street orderly trucks, which are visited by lorries, for the collection of accumulated refuse and conveying same to the disposal tip.

The following is a comparative table of the number of employees engaged on street cleansing:—

								1961	1960
Men	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	48	44
Boys	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	2

The following table shows the quantity of street sweepings collected within the Borough and the mileage of the vehicles (the table includes figures for the two Mechanical Sweeper Collectors engaged on street cleansing work.)

Quarter ending :				1961		1960	
				<i>Tons</i>	<i>Miles</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Miles</i>
31st March	...	...	...	771	4,456	739	4,356
30th June	...	...	...	704	4,260	667	4,161
30th September	...	...	...	670	3,612	637	2,812
31st December	...	...	...	760	4,560	736	4,526
Totals				2,905	16,888	2,779	15,855

Street Gulley Cleansing

8,658 street gulleys were emptied and sealed with fresh water by mechanically-operated vehicles.

The following table shows the comparative tonnage removed during the years 1960-1961:—

Quarter ending :			1961		1960	
			<i>Tons</i>	<i>Miles</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Miles</i>
31st March	...	...	340	1,643	520	2,350
30th June	...	...	332	1,192	498	2,410
30th September	...	...	341	1,453	413	2,250
31st December	...	...	410	1,511	604	3,150
Totals			1,423	5,799	2,035	10,160

Cesspool Emptying

All domestic cesspools are emptied by mechanical cesspool emptying vehicles upon receipt of instructions from occupiers or owners of premises within the Borough, with a minimum of inconvenience and nuisance to householders.

Sewage Disposal

During the year an average daily flow of 6,100,000 gallons of sewage was pumped and purified.

The construction of the new sewage works proceeded rapidly during 1961, one half of the new biological beds and humus tanks having been put into commission and progress on the other half being well advanced at the end of the year. New pumps were installed to deal with the Upper Whitley area and the sludge digestion plant and power generating station were almost complete. The old Activated Sludge Plant was demolished.

The conversion of Caversham Sewage Disposal Works to an automatic pumping station with a new pumping main to Blakes Lock Pumping Station was commenced and should be completed by mid-1962.

Sewerage

During the twelve months ended 31st December, 1961, 132 private houses and bungalows and 96 flats (total 228 dwellings) were connected to the foul sewerage system. These figures do not include Corporation houses and flats. Three properties were constructed with cesspool drainage and three houses previously drained to cesspools were connected to the main foul sewers. The total number of houses within the Borough with cesspools is now 487, the same as last year.

The following sewerage works were completed during the year:—

Northcourt Avenue Surface Water Sewer	18" and 21"	— 473 yards
Brunswick Hill Surface Water Sewer	9"	— 110 yards
London Road Surface Water Sewer	18"	— 1500 yards
Elgar Road Foul Sewer	9"	— 219 yards

Swimming and Slipper Baths

The swimming bath facilities again proved very popular and attendances were maintained. The two slipper bath installations were also well attended.

The number of persons using the facilities during the year ended 31st December, 1961 was:—

Arthur Hill Memorial Baths—Swimming Pool	.	138,581
Slipper Baths	.	8,913
King's Meadow Bath	. . . . .	37,199
Coley Bathing Place	. . . . .	21,643
West Reading Bathing Place	. . . . .	10,809
Jesse Terrace Slipper Baths	. . . . .	13,164

HOUSING

(These comments should be read in conjunction with the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector and with my comments under Part III of the National Assistance Act.)

Mr. W. V. Smith, A.R.I.B.A., Borough Architect, has been good enough to supply the following information:—

In 1961 the completion of dwellings has followed very closely 1960, and 383 dwellings including houses, flats, maisonettes and bungalows, have been handed over to the Council.

In April, 1961, the first house on the Bulmershe Estate, Woodley, was completed and in September the third block of fifteen-storey flats at Coley Park Estate was handed over.

At Coley Park Estate five shops with maisonettes over, together with male and female public conveniences and in Northumberland Avenue on the Whitley Estate six shops with maisonettes over, together with male and female public conveniences were handed over.

In Foxhays Road, Whitley Estate, and Buckingham Drive, Emmer Green, 20 one-bedroom flats in all for aged persons were completed.

May-June, 1961, saw the commencement of two contracts for one bedroom flats at Whitley Wood Road and Dwyer Road (off Burghfield Road), twenty-four flats are in each contract and will be tenanted by aged persons and childless couples.

Two Midwives' flats have been completed in Corwen Road (off School Road), Tilehurst.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Part III & IV

SECTION 21—PROVISION OF ACCOMMODATION

(a) General Considerations

During the year we were fortunate to recruit a Hospital Almoner who has had considerable experience in working in the geriatric wards of a hospital. As part of her duties she has been called upon to undertake a review of the waiting list for

Part III accommodation and also to investigate all new applications. On 31st December, 1961, there were 26 males and 57 females awaiting admission, of whom 4 men and 6 women were in hospital.

Unfortunately we were unable to start on the provision of the new home on the Southcote Estate although I certainly do hope that a start will be made during the financial year 1962/63. The remarks which I made last year about the increasing infirmity of patients who are admitted have been confirmed by our experience during 1961. There is no doubt that this is due to the efficiency of the domiciliary services of all types.

(b) Part III Accommodation

Staff shortages at the hostels continued during the year. I would like to repeat my warning about the future of Dysons Wood Hostel. It is getting almost impossible to staff this Home and a very great strain is falling upon the Superintendent. It is my hope that when the new Home on the Southcote Estate is open we will be able to dispense with Dysons Wood.

Similarly, Wychcotes and Warren House are proving more and more unsuitable because of the lack of ground floor accommodation.

In August the extension of the Arthur Clark Home was officially opened. There is no doubt that this extension has proved a tremendous help and has enabled us to transfer a number of residents from other Homes who were having difficulty with stairs and it also helped us to admit some urgent cases from our waiting list.

The installation of the lift at Southern Hill was completed and this has been a great help to the more infirm residents of the Home. Unfortunately, work did not start on the projected lift at Parkhurst but, again, this is a matter of very great urgency. It is unfortunate to have to report that there are some old people who are badly in need of Part III accommodation but who cannot be admitted because there is no Home which is capable of dealing with their particular disability. It is no use expecting an enfeebled old man to climb up to the third floor to go to bed.

Five staff houses were erected in the ground of Wychcotes and tenanted by staff members employed at this and the Arthur Clark Home. There is no doubt that the provision of these houses has helped to relieve the staff position at these Homes, although the shortage of staff still continues to be severe. As I have said previously, the salaries paid and the hours of work compare unfavourably with those in other industries. As a result, Superintendents are called upon to deputise in a

variety of positions and often work long hours for the benefit of their residents. All ought to be congratulated upon their resourcefulness and adaptability.

The following table gives particulars of admissions to homes which were under the direct control of the local authority during 1961:—

Hostel	Transfers from other Homes		Source of Admissions							
			Hospital		Own Home		For Short stay		Total new admissions (permanent)	
	M.	W.	M.	W.	M.	W.	M.	W.	M.	W.
Woodlands	—	—	3	8	5	9	—	—	8	17
Wychcotes	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Warren House	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	4
Parkhurst	—	—	—	—	13	—	2	—	13	—
Southern Hill	—	—	3	—	13	—	1	—	16	—
Arthur Clark	—	5	—	8	—	17	—	1	—	30
Dysons Wood	—	—	—	3	—	5	—	—	—	8
Alice Jenkins	—	2	—	3	—	5	—	1	—	10
	—	7	6	23	31	40	3	2	37	70
	7		29		71		5		107	

It will be seen that we were able to admit 33 more patients than in 1960, but nevertheless, I must again draw attention to the slow rate of turnover of beds in Part III accommodation. The particulars of residents in other homes will be found under Section 26.

The Central Entertainments Committee were, once again, extremely active. Fetes were arranged at Dysons Wood and Alice Jenkins Homes, and an "At Home" at Arthur Clark Home. Whist drives took place during the winter season. The sum of £284 5s. 0d. was raised, and of this amount £247 17s. 10d. was used for the benefit of the residents.

Coach outings, visits to the cinema and theatre were arranged, T.V. and wireless sets were provided where required, and a Christmas gift was given to each resident. In addition, birthday cards were sent to each resident, and although this may seem a small thing, it is greatly appreciated, especially in instances where it is the only one received.

Credit must be given to the members of the Committee for the hard work which has cheerfully been done by them.

Members may be interested to know the average age of residents in our homes:—

Woodlands	.	.	.	.	.	.	78.6
Wychcotes	.	.	.	.	.	.	82
Warren House	.	.	.	.	.	.	79.4
Parkhurst	.	.	.	.	.	.	81
Southern Hill	.	.	.	.	.	.	79.3
Arthur Clark	.	.	.	.	.	.	81
Dysons Wood	.	.	.	.	.	.	81.7
Alice Jenkins	.	.	.	.	.	.	82.5

RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION—December 31st, 1961

			Persons (exclusive of staff) residing in					
			Homes in the possession of the Council whose normal bed complement for residential accommodation is:—			Premises vested in the Minister as hospitals	Accommodation provided on behalf of the Council by voluntary organisations	Total
			Less than 35	35-70	over 70			
			1	2	3	4	5	6
Not materially Handicapped	aged	M. F.	41	95 97			2 3	97 141
	not aged	M. F.	1	1 1				1 2
Blind	aged	M. F.	2	8 9			1 6	9 17
	not aged	M. F.					1	1
Deaf	aged	M. F.		2 3			1	3 3
	not aged	M. F.						
Epileptic	aged	M. F.		2 1			1	2 2
	not aged	M. F.	1				1	1 1
Others physically Handicapped	aged	M. F.	8	7 12			2	7 22
	not aged	M. F.		1			1 2	2 2
Mentally Handicapped	aged	M. F.	1					1
	not aged	M. F.	2	1				3
Grand Total			56	240			21	317

Temporary Accommodation

At no time during the past year has this accommodation been unoccupied. Admissions have risen considerably, and a point has now been reached where each new case presents a great problem. Length of stay of all families admitted has been a long one, and great difficulty is experienced by the caseworkers in finding alternative

accommodation. Most of the admissions, as in 1960, are families who have only recently taken up residence in Reading. In this accommodation a gas cooker has now been installed and other necessary equipment provided, and families are now catering for themselves, a new scale of rental charges being introduced at the same time. Wayfarers and other casual admissions are still accommodated in the porch.

The following table gives particulars of this accommodation:—

	M.	W.	C.	Total
Admissions	—	54	68	122
Maintenance Days	—	1,080	2,480	3,560
Remaining on 31.12.61	—	3	7	10

SECTION 22—CHARGES FOR ACCOMMODATION

The standard charge was increased from £6 12s. 0d. to £6 17s. 0d. per head per week as from 3rd June, 1961. The following amounts were collected on assessments made against residents according to the scale in use during the year:—

	£	s.	d.
Woodlands	8,096	2	2
Wychcotes	1,543	2	11
Warren House	2,353	12	0
Parkhurst	6,078	0	10
Southern Hill	5,685	2	9
Arthur Clark Home	2,780	10	8
Dysons Wood	2,310	2	2
Alice Jenkins Home	4,988	1	2

SECTION 24—AUTHORITY LIABLE FOR THE PROVISION OF ACCOMMODATION

No dispute regarding settlement arose, although several cases from other areas were admitted.

SECTION 25—POWER OF NATIONAL ASSISTANCE BOARD TO ORDER THE PROVISION OF ACCOMMODATION IN URGENT CASES

The National Assistance Board referred to us several cases under this section, and the necessary arrangements were made. Liaison between officers of the Board and this Department has been excellent.

SECTION 26—PROVISION OF ACCOMMODATION IN PREMISES MAINTAINED BY VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

The following table shows the numbers and categories of persons who were in special Homes and chargeable to the County Borough:—

	M.	F.
Aged Infirm	4	6
Blind	2	7
Cripples	1	4
Deaf and Dumb	1	—
Epileptic	1	2
Spastic	—	—

SECTION 29—WELFARE OF HANDICAPPED PERSONS

(a) Deaf and Dumb

Arrangements with the Oxford Diocesan Association for the Deaf continued to operate satisfactorily throughout the year. The following table gives particulars of people on the Register at the end of the year:—

	M.	F.
Children under 16	—	—
Persons aged 16-24	36	38
Persons aged 65 and over	6	5

Mr. Powell, the Missioner for the Deaf, has given me the following notes on his work:—

St. Mark's Chapel

The members continue to add to the beauty of the Chapel with such items as altar frontals. The Services are held each Sunday at 6.30 p.m. (excepting the first Sunday of the month when a Holy Communion Service is held). All the Services are well attended.

The Anniversary Service commemorating the opening of the Chapel was held on Sunday, 10th September.

On 20th September, 14 members were confirmed by the Bishop of Reading.

The Harvest Festival Service took place on Sunday, 1st October.

A special candlelight service of "Lessons and Carols" was held on Sunday, 17th December.

Mother's Union Branch

The branch meets fortnightly on Wednesday afternoons. The meetings take the form of Services, Games and Handicraft sessions.

The members join in whenever possible with the activities of the Reading Deanery Mother's Union, attending services and functions.

Placement

Employment was found for 8 men and 7 women. The deaf are visited in their place of employment regularly and many emergency calls are made to sort out difficulties.

Social

Two teams took part in the Reading Borough Tuesday Billiard League.

A Christmas Party was held at the Centre on 24th December.

The Annual Tea Party, attended by some 178 members, was held at the Town Hall. The Mayor and Mayoress were present.

The Annual Outing took place on 24th June to Weymouth.

There were various coach outings to other Deaf Clubs during the year. Some of these were for indoor games and others for cricket matches.

Young Peoples' Club

A Club for younger members under the age of 30 was begun in September and has proved very popular. The accent is on further education. Places of interest have also been visited. Lectures and demonstrations have also been given on various subjects.

Welfare

The deaf are helped with all kinds of problems, both large and small. They are visited both in their homes and in hospitals. The elderly deaf members take part in one week's holiday and this year the venue was Cliftonville.

(b) Hard of Hearing

Our arrangements with the Reading and District Hard of Hearing Association has continued as in previous years. The register on December 31st, 1961, was as follows:—

	M.	F.
Children under 16	—	—
Persons aged 16-24	19	25
Persons aged 65 and over	12	39

Mr. W. J. Hammond, Hon. Secretary of the Reading and District Hard of Hearing Association, reports as follows:—

I am pleased to report a very successful year during 1961. Lip reading classes prove helpful and the challenge cup presented by the late Secretary, Mr. Edwards, for the best lip reader of the year was competed for again in May (about 14 competitors). Some are afraid to enter for this because they cannot spell, although we have told them they will not be judged on spelling. The Social Committee work hard to make every evening interesting and there have been illustrated talks, whist drives, beetle drives, a Harvest Supper and a Flower Show. Various outings have been arranged and well patronised. We gave a Party for the local deaf and hard of hearing children again this year, being helped by the University Rag Committee financially, and they have promised to help in this direction again for the 1962 Party.

Our annual New Year's Party was quite a success and we were honoured with the presence of the Mayor and Mayoress.

The Reading Club were in the semi-finals for a Clear Speech Competition organised by the National Body but are not in the finals (this year). We hope to do better next time.

We have been meeting Oxford, Basingstoke, and High Wycombe Clubs socially.

Our Secretary has been chosen as President of the Southern Rally at Bournemouth in September, 1962, and quite a number of the Reading Club members are attending in his honour.

The Benevolent fund has been able to help two members in dire straits during 1961 and all sick members are visited if we are notified.

The programme for 1962 is very varied and includes coach trips to places of interest.

(c) **Blind**

The general arrangements for this work continued as previously and in close collaboration with the Reading Association for the Welfare of the Blind.

During the year two items of importance were discussed with the representatives of the Ministry of Health and with representatives of the R.A.W.B. The R.A.W.B. has undertaken the responsibility of providing pastime classes for blind persons and the Ministry's officers were very critical of the accommodation which was, in fact, provided. We admitted that the criticism was justified but at the end of the year the difficulty was unresolved. Another point raised by the Ministry's officers was the arrangements for the welfare of partially sighted people. At the moment we have no formal scheme under this head and it is very much a matter for dispute as to whether or not the administration for the welfare of partially sighted persons should be carried out by people who are patently and obviously concerned with the welfare of the blind. In many cases there is considerable difference between a person who is partially sighted and a person who is blind. My personal view is that the arrangements for the welfare of partially sighted people should not be undertaken by any organisation which purports to be responsible for the welfare of the blind, but whether this view is acceptable to the Ministry of Health remains to be seen.

Miss Lowe, the Blind Welfare Officer, also acts as Secretary to the Association, and has supplied the following information:—

On 31st December, 1961, there are 205 blind people on the register—72 males and 133 females. The age groups are as follows:—

						Male	Female	Total
1-4 years	.	.	.	.	.	1	—	1
5-15 „	.	.	.	.	.	—	1	1
16-20 „	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	2
21-29 „	.	.	.	.	.	4	—	4
30-39 „	.	.	.	.	.	3	5	8
40-49 „	.	.	.	.	.	7	3	10
50-59 „	.	.	.	.	.	9	15	24
60-69 „	.	.	.	.	.	7	28	35
70-79 „	.	.	.	.	.	22	36	58
80 and over	.	.	.	.	.	18	44	62
						—	—	—
						72	133	205

Age at which Blindness occurred

					Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year	.	.	.	.	10	12	22
1-4 years	.	.	.	.	—	3	3
5-15 „	.	.	.	.	3	2	5
16-20 „	.	.	.	.	4	2	6
21-29 „	.	.	.	.	3	3	6
30-39 „	.	.	.	.	4	10	14
40-49 „	.	.	.	.	7	9	16
50-59 „	.	.	.	.	7	22	29
60-69 „	.	.	.	.	12	26	38
70-79 „	.	.	.	.	17	26	43
80 and over	.	.	.	.	5	18	23
					<hr/> 72	<hr/> 133	<hr/> 205

During the year there were twenty-three new registrations, four transfers-in, thirty-five deaths and twelve transfers-out to other areas, resulting in a decrease of twenty on the total for 1960.

Of the twenty-three persons registered blind during the year twenty-two were over sixty years of age and the other was a woman of fifty-five suffering from diabetes.

Partially-sighted Register

There are 130 persons on this register at the end of the year, 44 males and 86 females.

The age groups are as follows:—

					Male	Female	Total
5-15 years	.	.	.	.	5	5	10
16-20 „	.	.	.	.	1	—	1
21-49 „	.	.	.	.	6	11	17
50-64 „	.	.	.	.	4	5	9
65 years and over	.	.	.	.	28	65	93
					<hr/> 44	<hr/> 86	<hr/> 130

During the year there were twenty-seven additions to the register, one transfer-in, fourteen deaths, two transfers-out to other districts and three names were removed on being registered as blind persons, resulting in a total increase of nine.

The register is divided into the following groups for those aged 16 and over:—

Persons near and prospectively blind	.	.	.	13
Persons mainly industrially handicapped	.	.	.	13
Persons requiring observation only	.	.	.	94

A. Follow-up of Registered Blind and Partially sighted Persons:—

(1) Number of cases registered during the year in respect of which Section F (1) of Forms B.D.8 recommends :— (a) No treatment (b) Treatment (Medical, Surgical or Optical) ...	Cause of Disability			
	Cataract	Glaucoma	Retrolental Fibroplasia	Others
(2) Number of cases at (1) (b) above which on follow-up action have received treatment	4	—	—	18
	9	9	—	9
	2	9	—	9

Children

The blind boy who left school last year is unemployable. He was offered a vacancy in a residential occupational therapy school but his parents decided to keep him at home.

The girl has left the Sunshine Home and has gone to Rushton Hall, Kettering, a school for children with additional handicaps. The third child, a boy, is two years old.

Of the ten partially-sighted children, eight are attending special schools, one is attending a Nursery School and the other has an additional handicap and is being taught at home at present.

The annual Christmas Party arranged by the Reading Association for the Welfare of the Blind took place on an icy cold day but those who came had a very enjoyable time and were keen to sing the carols, etc. they had learned at school.

Home Workers

The machine-knitter and piano tuner have remained our only homeworkers for another year and both have maintained the earnings required to qualify for augmentation.

Rehabilitation and Training

One man of retirement age is at Torquay doing a course of social rehabilitation. Reports, so far, indicate that he is too old and set in his ways to make a positive adjustment to blindness but he appears to enjoy the companionship and life at the Centre.

A man was admitted to Letchworth for a course of training but since completing the course in August it has not been possible to find a place for him. One firm have promised to employ him on completion of the extension to their premises which, it was anticipated, would be ready for use in February but owing to various delays he is still unemployed.

A girl who has been without work for several months commenced in a local factory in October. She found it tiring at first but has now settled down and is very happy there.

Employed Persons

Twenty-seven blind and partially sighted persons are employed as shorthand-typists, telephone operators, factory operatives, piano tuners, masseurs, domestic workers, etc.

Walford House

This house, with three furnished bed-sitting rooms provided by the Reading Association for the Welfare of the Blind, has been fully occupied throughout the year. The three tenants are very happy there and much appreciate the facilities and companionship.

Shop Sales

The amount raised from shop sales totals £208, a decrease of £12 on the previous year.

Holiday Fund

One hundred and twelve people saved up for their holidays and many qualified for the bonus of £3 6s. 8d. given by the Reading Association for the Welfare of the Blind to those who had saved £6 13s. 4d. for withdrawal when they went away.

The Voluntary Association also gave additional grants to help with the increased cost of holidays and altogether spent a total of £676 augmenting the £100 allowed by the Council. The holiday at Worthing this year was shared with a party from Berkshire and all enjoyed a very happy fortnight in a hotel situated on the seafront.

Relief

The Committee consider many specific needs of individual blind persons at their monthly meetings and where possible their wants are supplied. The coal given by the Voluntary Association at the beginning of the Winter is very much appreciated. Those over 70 years of age receive 10 cwts. each, with lesser amounts for those who are younger.

The charges for chiropody treatment are paid for all who require this service and many of the blind people are grateful to have a chiropodist to visit them at home.

Social Activities

The social calendar goes on all the year round. There are monthly socials organised by the Home Teachers which have included a Hyacinth Show in February and entertainment by various concert parties, pastime classes and games afternoon continues each week.

Summer outings to Southsea, Worthing, and Wallingford, followed by the annual Garden Party in the grounds of Parkhurst hostel were all well supported. The Party held in Messrs. Heelas' Restaurant was very successful too and with the present of 10/- each from the Voluntary Association, gave a very happy Christmas to the blind folk.

We are indebted to a number of people, societies, and firms who render service in many and varied ways.

(d) REPORT OF CONSULTING OPHTHALMIC SURGEON

Mr. G. T. Willoughby-Cashell, F.R.C.S., has given the following report in connection with his work during the year:—

During 1961, fifty-seven patients were examined for admission to the Blind Register. Of these, six had been previously examined.

Ages

Under 20	20-40	40-60	60-70	70-80	80-100
—	2	2	8	14	31

	Blind	Not Blind	Partially-Sighted	Total
Cataract	5	3	5	13
Glaucoma	5	—	5	10
Myopia	1	1	4	6
Retinal Conditions	4	1	5	10
Degenerative Conditions	7	—	9	16
Cerebral Conditions	—	—	2	2
	22	5	30	57

Cataract

In four of the five patients blind from cataract, operation was advised but two were unwilling for this. Of the five partially sighted patients one had had a successful lens extraction and operation was recommended in two cases.

Glaucoma

One of the blind patients had had no treatment. Operation had been performed on two of the others. Three of the five partially sighted patients had been successfully treated. Of the remaining two one had had a successful cataract extraction and the other had macula degeneration as well as glaucoma.

Myopia

The high myopia in the blind patient in this category was complicated by glaucoma, the tension being controlled but the visual fields being restricted. One of the partially sighted patients, in whom there was an hysterical element, had 6/9 vision in one eye. Superficial keratitis with iritis, secondary cataract and glaucoma complicated another, and retinal detachment a third.

Retinal Conditions

Two of the patients blind under this heading had had central retinal artery thrombosis, one had a diabetic and one a hypertensive retinopathy. The patient who was not blind had an arterio sclerotic retinopathy but had 6/6 vision in one

eye and 6/9 in the other. Two of the partially sighted patients had a diabetic retinopathy, two had had central retinal vein thrombosis in one eye and one patient had senile cataract in the other eye. The second patient had amblyopia due to a squint in the other eye.

Degenerative Conditions

All patients, both blind and partially sighted in this category were suffering from macula degeneration. In two the degeneration was of the disciform variety and one blind patient had lost one eye in a fight.

Cerebral Conditions

One of these patients had had a sub-arachnoid haemorrhage and the other a cerebral thrombosis.

Attention is drawn to the fact that of the patients examined no less than forty-five were over the age of 70.

(e) OTHER CLASSES OF HANDICAPPED PERSONS

The work of this section of the Department continues to increase steadily and I am sure that we are able to alleviate the lot of many crippled people in the community.

Mrs. Snow, the Welfare Officer for this particular section of the department has submitted the following report:—

Total number assisted during the year	.	.	.	408
		Male	Female	
Children under 16 years	.	11	4	
Persons aged 16-64 years	.	128	138	
Persons aged 65 and over	.	43	84	
		<hr/>	<hr/>	
		182	226	
		<hr/>	<hr/>	
	Total	408		

Deceased during 1961—42

<i>Details of type of Assistance provided</i>		<i>Number of Cases</i>
Appliances (aids, gadgets, special equipment)	.	51
Adaptations to Dwellings (indoor work)	21	.
Adaptations to Dwellings (outdoor work)	11	32
Council property	21	
Non Council property	11	
Housing (including 5 rehoused)	.	19
Transport	.	85
Referred to Occupational Therapy Centre	.	79
Referred for Domiciliary Occupational Therapy	.	19
Referred to other agencies (Ministry of Labour, National Assistance Board, Ministry of Health, Wireless for the Bedridden, British Red Cross Society etc.)	.	83
Picture Loan Scheme	.	8
Convalescence	.	16
Financial Help (Fares etc.)	.	19
Social Activities	.	63
Welfare Visits (not included in above figures)	.	166

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Classification of Disabilities on Register

A/E (Amputation)	17
F (Arthritis and Rheumatism)	100
G (Congenital Malformations and Deformities)	8
H/L (Disease of the Digestive and Genito-Urinary systems; of the heart or circulatory system: of the respiratory system (other than tuberculosis) and of the skin)	73
Q/T (Injuries of the head, face, neck, thorax, abdomen, pelvis or trunk. Injuries or diseases (other than tuberculosis) of the upper and lower limbs and of the spine)	82
V (Organic nervous disease-Epilepsy, disseminated sclerosis, poliomyelitis, hemiplegia, sciatica, etc.)	144
U/W (Neuroses-Psychoses and other nervous and mental disorders not included in V)	2
X (Tuberculosis-respiratory)	5
Y (Tuberculosis-non-respiratory)	2
Z (Diseases and injuries not specified above)	2

MINISTRY OF HEALTH GROUPING

Total of cases assisted

A=Capable of work under ordinary industrial conditions	41
B=Incapable of work under ordinary industrial conditions but mobile and capable of work in sheltered workshops	35
C=Incapable of work under ordinary industrial conditions and sufficiently mobile for work in sheltered workshops but capable of work at home	23
D=Incapable of or not available for work	294
E=Children under the age of 16 years whose needs are likely to be met under other enactments but for whom the local authority have a general responsibility under Section 29 of the National Assistance Act, 1948	15
	<hr/> 408 <hr/>

During 1961 the Council under its Scheme for Handicapped Persons assisted 408 persons. It is the intention of the Council in operating such a scheme to try and make disabled people independent, useful, contributing members to the life of the community. The main ways in which this can be done is by adapting their homes, arranging special transport to move them from place to place, finding work to be undertaken at a Work Centre or in their own homes, arranging Social Activities and holidays, and putting them in touch with many voluntary and statutory bodies which already exist to help them.

It will be seen from the above table of Assistance that there has been an increase in the extent of the work of adapting homes to meet the needs of disabled people.

It is also worth noting that this work is not only limited to our own Council property but includes privately owned houses. I hope by next year to include an extension of this work and to describe some special flats which will be built to overcome some of the material difficulties existing in standard housing.

Transport continues to be a vital part of any scheme for Handicapped Persons. When it is realised that we are dealing with the most severely disabled group in the community, it is obvious that the movement of such people, presents special problems. In the main, transport is necessary to bring them to work and to Social Activities. Use is made of the Hospital Car Service but this is not enough. The specially fitted ambulance with a hydraulic lift to move wheel chair cases, is in daily use. Delivery will also be taken, early next year, of a further ambulance also fitted with a hydraulic lift with a capacity of nine persons. Meantime, we have to manage with a single decker bus. Of course a small number of Handicapped Persons possess petrol or electric tricycles issued by the Ministry of Health and they are independent of our transport services.

Since my last report, when I made but brief mention of the new development at the Occupational Therapy Centre, viz. the industrial unit—this has shown very encouraging increase in its activity. At least a dozen firms in the area have supplied the Centre with work. These include local printing firms, coil winders, wire works, dairy detergent manufacturers. The processes, our workers are required to do, are unskilled and cover packing, light assembly, the operation of simple machines, supplied to us by the firms—coil winding. The firms pay the appropriate rate for the job as a whole and the money is allocated to the workers according to the amount each has contributed to the job. It has been possible for the Works Organiser to pay regular weekly allowances up to the amount permitted for persons in receipt of Statutory Allowances from the National Assistance Board, the Ministry of National Insurance and the Ministry of Labour. If efforts are made to maintain a continuous flow of work to the centre, our Handicapped Persons can make a real contribution to the economic life of the community. This feeling of doing normal essential work has important effects on the attitude of a person to his disability. It stimulates him to greater efforts to accept and overcome his handicap. It gives him the satisfaction of a job well done and a natural fatigue at the end of a day—not fatigue induced by boredom. Of course it is essential to have full employment in the community at large for the very existence of such a unit.

An appointment of a skilled tradesman to act as assistant to the Works Organiser was made in November. This man's function is to supervise the daily workers at the Centre. The Works Organiser is thus freed to contact new firms and make fresh contacts. Unfortunately, Mrs. Biddle had to resign for personal reasons in December and her successor has yet to be appointed, but Mr. Walker, the newly appointed assistant has maintained most efficiently a steady flow of work for seventy workers at the Centre.

An interesting development has been the inclusion of three workers from the adjoining counties of Berkshire and Oxfordshire. The cost of their attendances and arrangements for their transport is made by the sponsoring authorities. They are young severely disabled men who are already showing signs of satisfactory adjustment under the stimulus of daily activity.

The inevitable outcome is the pressing need for more work space and storage space. It is not too early to start planning a second centre. It has been found more efficient to separate the industrial work from the Craft work. Our Occupational Therapist still has a much reduced number of handicapped persons who are only suitable for occupational therapy. Some persons recently discharged from hospital are not ready to go straight into the Industrial Unit but rather graduate to it from

occupational therapy. She also regularly visits others who cannot be brought to the Centre, in their homes. The Helping Hand Shop is still necessary to market these goods. However, with the greatly reduced number of Handicapped Persons producing articles under this heading our need for such an Association is not so pressing.

No one in Welfare Work can afford to work in isolation and it is a constant source of satisfaction that such excellent co-operation is found from other Statutory and Voluntary Associations who are there to help Handicapped Persons.

The Picture Loan Scheme continues to function, in a small way, under the kindly efficient supervision of our two voluntary workers Miss Power Steel and Mrs. Jewell. The bed bound patients eagerly look forward to their visits.

We are indebted to other voluntary workers who help us in other ways. The Social Clubs run by the British Red Cross Society and by the Inner Wheel are now an established part of the social life of the Handicapped Persons in the Borough. Attendances, twice a month, are always around fifty persons. Transport is another function in which we are assisted by Voluntary Associations. The Rotary Club help every month in providing cars to bring Handicapped Persons to these Social activities. It would be useless to arrange a programme for Handicapped Persons without this type of voluntary service being so generously provided.

In October we agreed to put into practice a scheme recommended by the Minister of Health, to issue badges to certain classes of handicapped drivers. This was for purposes of identification and it was hoped would assist the handicapped persons with driving and parking difficulties.

SECTION 31—CONTRIBUTIONS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

(a) Meals on Wheels

The following table shows the number of meals on wheels supplied by the W.V.S. during the year:—

January	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,102
February	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,078
March	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,301
April	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,113
May	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,247
June	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,211
July	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,102
August	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,270
September	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,165
October	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,170
November	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,337
December	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,587
								<hr/> 14,683 <hr/>

It will be seen that it is an increase on the figure (13,299) for 1960, and we are again indebted to Mrs. Buckingham and her helpers for the good work they are doing.

During the year the Council provided the necessary finances for the W.V.S. to purchase a small van for the delivery of meals on wheels. I know that the W.V.S. have found this vehicle to be extremely useful, and on our part, it is a fitting tribute to the great amount of good work which this organisation carries out.

(b) Chiropody Service**Ambulant Patients—**

The responsibility for the Chiropody Clinic for old people resident in the County Borough was taken over from the Reading and Berkshire Council of Social Service by the Trustees of the Queen Victoria Institute Fund on 1st August, 1960.

New premises were obtained at 36, Queens Road, Reading, in March, 1961, and four clinics per week are now being held there with the assistance of three chiropodists employed on a part-time basis.

New equipment has been purchased and during the past twelve months 1,703 attendances have taken place and the number of patients has increased by 200.

Home Bound Patients

Home bound patients are treated by a qualified chiropodist who is employed directly by the Council. The patient pays only the same fee as he or she would have to pay if he were ambulant and able to go to the Clinic at Queen's Road. There is no doubt that this service is expanding and I am sure that it is very much appreciated.

Miss Lockley, the Chiropodist, has submitted the following report on her work during 1961:—

No. of individual patients treated	.	.	.	114
No. of visits made	.	.	.	193

The service was started in April, 1961, and is restricted to patients who are housebound.

Most cases are referred for treatment by doctors, district nurses or social workers, and each patient is advised of the date and time of the visit by card. Patients are asked to pay three shillings towards the cost of each visit.

The majority of patients are either blind, bedridden, or physically handicapped in some way, care of the feet having been neglected over a number of years. Severe cases of onychogryphosis are very common, patients deriving great relief from treatment almost immediately.

Frequency of treatment depends largely on the individual patient, but it has been found that on the average a return visit every three months keeps patients free from discomfort.

SECTION 37—REGISTRATION OF HOMES FOR OLD PEOPLE

At the end of the year nine Homes were registered in Reading as providing accommodation suitable for caring for aged and infirm people. These are as follows:—

107 Connaught Road	.	.	.	.	4 places
8 Southcote Road	.	.	.	.	18 places
106 Wokingham Road	.	.	.	.	6 places
51 Tilehurst Road	.	.	.	.	23 places
Springfield St. Luke	.	.	.	.	28 places
272 Wokingham Road	.	.	.	.	2 places
4 College Road	.	.	.	.	14 places
31 Alexander Road	.	.	.	.	6 places
19 Bath Road	.	.	.	.	20 places

SECTION 47—REMOVAL TO SUITABLE PREMISES OF PEOPLE IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION

No application was made to the Court under this Section of the Act. Three cases were considered for action to be taken, but in each case, after repeated visits, the persons concerned were admitted to general hospitals.

SECTION 50—BURIAL OR CREMATION OF THE DEAD

Two burials (1 male; 1 female) and five cremations (4 male; 1 female) were arranged during 1961. In a number of other cases assistance and advice were given, but in these instances the expenses were borne by the relatives concerned.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Cremation

The Medical Officer of Health is the Medical Referee to the Reading Crematorium. The following table gives an idea of the steady increase in the number of cremations over the last fifteen years:—

1961	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,720
1960	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,537
1959	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,485
1958	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,382
1957	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,270
1956	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,210
1955	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	992
1954	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	869
1953	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	891
1952	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	675
1951	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	763
1950	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	567
1949	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	524
1948	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	444
1947	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	407

Nine hundred and ninety-six (57.9%) of those cremated were borough residents and 724 (42.1%) came from outside the borough. 52% of the residents of the borough who died were cremated.

Public Health Laboratory Service

The valuable work of the Public Health Laboratory Service continued throughout the year and I am very grateful to Dr. Wood, Director of the Reading Laboratory, for his help and co-operation on many occasions. Unfortunately it is not possible to present particulars of examinations which applied only to Reading.

Nursing Homes

Unfortunately Whiteknights Nursing Home closed down during the year. At the end of the year there were the following:—

Dunedin	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	20 beds
Easterbrook	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	14 „
Chiltern Maternity	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	13 „

Nursery and Child Minders Act, 1948

At the end of the year there were two child minders, including one day nursery registered in the town in respect of children.

International Certificates

During the year 769 International Certificates of Vaccination were authenticated.